Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Rabin, Mubarak Hold Talks in Cairo

'Arafat Meets With Sidqi, al-Baz

NC1212101893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Guest House in Cairo today. Palestinian sources in Cairo said that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, and members of the Palestinian delegation accompanying 'Arafat later joined the meeting. These sources said that the meeting dealt with developments in the peace process in the Middle East and ways to remove the obstacles to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho accord.

'Arafat Confers With Mubarak, Musa

NC1212124593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met privately at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis in Cairo today. This meeting was within the framework of President Mubarak's efforts to implement the Israeli-Palestinian Gaza-Jericho agreement and remove the obstacles it faces.

'Arafat met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at noon today. During their 90-minute meeting, they reviewed the results of the ongoing contacts to surmount the obstacles to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. Also attending the meeting were Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President 'Arafat; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

Palestinians Arrive To Join 'Arafat

NC1212133793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] A Palestinian delegation comprising Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Ziyad Abu-Ziyad arrived in Cairo this morning to join Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Al-Husayni described today's 'Arafat-Rabin meeting as very important, particularly since it comes hours before the zero hour for the implementation of the agreement. He added that it is necessary to try to find solutions for some of the outstanding problems so that the peace process and the credibility of both sides may not be shaken in front of the two peoples and the entire world. He added that some painful matters that are causing constant disturbances still exist and must be resolved immediately. They include the question of the detainees, deportees, and wanted individuals. He called for an end to the measures that run counter to the peace process, such as the confiscation of land, the expansion of settlements, the measures taken in Jerusalem, shooting orders, and the settlers' conduct.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Working Lunch

NC1212134293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat continued their talks today over a working lunch hosted by President Mubarak in honor of the Palestinian president and his delegation.

The meeting between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat lasted one hour.

On the Palestinian side, the lunch was attended by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of information in the PLO Executive Committee; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations; Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-al-Ala', PLO Executive Committee member and official in charge of the PLO's economic committee; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo; Faysal al-Husayni; Sa'ib 'Urayqat; Ziyad Abu-Ziyad; and Akram Abu-Haniyah.

On the Egyptian side, it was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Rabin Arrives, Meets With Mubarak

NC1212153693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the presidential office this afternoon. Rabin arrived in Cairo earlier today and was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin are scheduled to meet later today before the expected tripartite summit meeting [Mubarak, Rabin, and 'Arafat] is held.

Meanwhile, Palestinian and Israeli officials said that after his talks in Cairo today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Prime Minister Rabin is expected to announce the release of 1,200 Palestinian prisoners and the return of three Palestinians deported by Israel in the eighties for joining the PLO.

Mubarak, 'Arafat, Rabin Hold Talks

NC1212162293 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a tripartite meeting in Cairo today to overcome the obstacles impeding the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are scheduled to hold a news conference shortly at the conclusion of their talks.

'Arafat, Rabin Hold Bilateral Meeting

NC1212171093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a tripartite summit meeting this evening at the presidential office. The meeting was followed by a bilateral meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin.

'Arafat, Rabin Hold Expanded Meeting

NC1212175093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1737 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held an expanded session of talks at the Egyptian presidential headquarters in Heliopolis this evening, attended by the members of the two delegations.

This meeting was held following a bilateral session of talks between 'Arafat and Rabin earlier this evening.

Rabin Announces Delay of Implementation

TA1212191893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat finished a few moments ago. Both persons started a press conference but not together as was expected before. I suggest that first we hear Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in English.

[Begin Rabin recording] Good evening. I would like first and foremost to thank President Mubarak for offering his hospitality and assistance in the meeting between Chairman 'Arafat and myself. We met, I believe that we discussed only the two of us, where we stand on the question of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] as a result of all the talks that have taken place since the signing of the DOP on 13 September this year.

At the conclusion of our discussion, and later on in the meeting between the two delegations we can sum it up, the way that I understand it—and I believe I understand it right: first, both parties, both of us, are committed to the DOP. Second, we are committed to continue our efforts to bring about the implementation of the DOP in its first stage—Gaza-Jericho First. Three, since we found certain differences in the interpretation of the DOP—because both of us are committed and base all our negotiations on the DOP and the exchange of letters between Chairman 'Arafat and myself that brought about the mutual recognition between the PLO and the Government and Israel—we decided to give ourselves certain time to rethink and will meet again in Egypt in 10 days—it might be nine or 11 days—but generally 10 days.

In the meantime, two committees will continue to negotiate: the Palestinian-Israeli economic committee will meet hopefully tomorrow in Paris, and the subcommittee that deals with the transfer of responsibility will continue its meeting in al-'Arish. This is in essence what has happened and I believe it is better to negotiate thoroughly the implementation of the DOP.

To know that what we are trying to achieve is not like when we sign a peace treaty with a neighboring Arab country. When we signed a peace treaty with Egypt, we knew that there is a line—on one side Egypt, on the other side Israel. In the creation of the interim period, the interim self-government arrangement for the Palestinians in the interim period, we will try to create peaceful coexistence between two entities that are interwoven in the territories, crisscross one another, and it is much more complicated than once you reach an agreement with an Arab country. Where is the line? The border that divides between the [word indistinct] Arab country and Israel. Therefore, since the structure is much more complicated it is necessary to define very clearly the vital interests to Israel: security; and the vital interest to the PLO, to the Palestinians. And I do not believe that 10 days will make any change.

I believe that once we will reach an agreement after the meeting 10 days from now, and it will be elaborated and clearly defined, there will be no problem to implement it within the time that was allotted for negotiations and implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First: the six months that ends by mid-April. I do not see any reason why if in 10 days from now, we will reach an agreement on those issues that we have not yet succeeded to reach an understanding, there will be any difficulty in achievement in the time that was allotted—the six months that were allotted for negotiations and implementation of Gaza-Jericho First. Therefore, we knew from the very beginning—before and after signing the DOP—that it is difficult, that patience, coolness, and compromises would be needed. I look forward to the next meeting and remain committed to the DOP and to its implementation. [end recording]

'Arafat Holds News Conference

NC1212192193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1858 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized the Palestinian side's commitment to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. He said: We wish to preserve it. He noted that there are

still some points on which no agreement has been reached because of the differences in the two sides' views.

Speaking at the news conference he held tonight at the presidential office in Heliopolis following his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the Palestinian president said: An important meeting was held at the beginning between myself and Rabin and then in the presence of President Hu...' Mubarak and it was then attended by members of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

'Arafat added: We decided to meet again here in Egypt within 10 days, God willing. At the same time, the Economic Committee in Paris and the Transfer of Authority Committee in al-'Arish will continue their work.

Palestinian President 'Arafat expressed gratitude to President Mubarak for his efforts and attempts to bring the Palestinian and Israeli viewpoints closer. He added: President Mubarak was briefed on what we have accomplished between us. He also shared in all our troubles and efforts to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. I thank President Mubarak on behalf of myself, the Palestinian people, and the Central Committee and Executive Committee.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat repeated his thanks to President Mubarak. He said: As you know, he has shouldered all the responsibility from the start for our problems and for the efforts to achieve a real and comprehensive peace and reach the final solution. I repeat my thanks to him: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In reply to a question on whether there will be consequences from not implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement tomorrow, Monday, 'Arafat said: I hope there will not be anything.

Asked for his assessment of his meeting with Rabin today and whether it was a success or a failure, 'Arafat said that this meeting will lead in the end to success and to the honest implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Declaration of Principles.

In reply to another question on whether he believes that the talks will lead to success after 10 days, Yasir 'Arafat said: We have to wait and see.

Asked whether President Mubarak intervened during his talks with Rabin, 'Arafat said: The fact is that the president heard what we agreed to. I thank him for his patience, which he always shows. He noted that President Mubarak has made great efforts.

The Palestinian president stressed that both the Palestinian and Israeli sides are committed to the Declaration of Principles and that the two committees will continue their work in Paris and al-'Arish.

Asked whether he still holds the view he expressed before, that no withdrawal of Israeli forces on 13 December will be a setback for the agreement, 'Arafat said that 10 days is not a long time.

On whether the nonimplementation of the agreement will lead to more (?violence) inside the occupied territories, 'Arafat said: We noted from the beginning that the quicker we implement the Declaration of Principles the more opportunity there will be to overcome the obstacles, including violence.

Mubarak Views Rabin-'Arafat Talks

NC1212221093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has expressed his optimism regarding the Declaration of Principles agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. He said all the parties must have hope because it is an important factor and that he never loses hope. President Mubarak also expressed his optimism regarding the peace process.

In statements made to foreign correspondents who gathered around him following the news conferences held by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, President Mubarak said that the talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides were held in an atmosphere of mutual respect and a true desire to overcome all difficulties facing the two sides. He said that difficulties are normal in such a situation, but as long as there is a will and desire, it is possible to overcome these difficulties.

He added that Egypt will continue its efforts on this issue and will host the two parties in Cairo within 10 days to narrow the differences in views and remove any difficulties. The president affirmed that he is satisfied with the results of the talks.

President Mubarak said: We have waited 45 years to reach this stage, we can wait 10 days until the next meeting to achieve results.

Asked what he expects to be achieved, President Mubarak said: This depends on the media, who must give the two parties hope that it is possible to achieve positive results within 10 days.

Rabin Departs Cairo

NC1212202093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1948 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left Cairo t is evening following a visit of several hours to Egypt c ring which he attended a tripartite summit meeting with President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to overcome obstacles facing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on time.

Rabin was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

'Arafat Departs Cairo

NC1212203793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening following a visit [words indistinct] during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to promote the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles.

The Palestinian president was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Palestinian Affairs

Statement Issued on 'Arafat-Christopher Talks

LD1112183593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] An official Palestinian source made the following statement this morning: The Palestinian leadership held a meeting in Tunis yesterday—Friday evening—under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee. A review of the result of the talks held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the brother president's tour in the last few days in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Germany, and Spain was made during the meeting.

The participants heard reports on the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations at all levels. Preparations were reviewed for the meeting of the countries providing economic assistance, which is due to be held in the French capital, Paris, in a few days.

The Palestinian leadership also discussed the agenda of the meeting due to be held in Cairo on Sunday, 12 December 1993, between the brother President Abu-'Ammar and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The meeting also discussed the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and warned against the unprecedented escalation of the killings carried out—particularly by Israeli settlers—the latest of which was the murder of three innocent citizens from the village of Tarqumya by settlers on 10 December 1993.

The statement stressed that the PLO viewed these practices—the killing of Palestinian citizens and the escalation brought about by armed settlers and some units of the Israeli Army—as a serious threat to the peace process and that they confirmed again the threat posed by the presence of settlements on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement and stressed the need for securing international protection for the masses of the Palestinian people.

WAFA Cited on Christopher's Comments on Talks

JN1112184293 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1713 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the PLO Headquarters in Tunis yesterday. The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, said that the talks addressed the most recent developments pertaining to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the obstacles facing it.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the U.S. secretary of state addressed reporters, saying: My visit to Tunisia has a special importance. It heralds a new chapter in the ties between the United States and the PLO after a long period of tension. I feel that I am able to come to Tunisia for talks with Chairman 'Arafat on serious and critical issues.

The U.S. secretary of state added: This is a new day for peace, and also in our ties with the PLO. This is because I made an official working visit to the official PLO Headquarters in Tunis and held talks with Chairman 'Arafat.

Christopher described his talks with brother President Abu-'Ammar as fruitful. He added that these talks addressed several issues, including the international economic aid which must be provided to support development and reconstruction efforts in the occupied territories.

Al-Husayni on Peace Talks, Christopher's Tour

NC1112091293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian advisory team to the peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to our program.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You have met with the U.S. secretary of state in Jerusalem. Before he came to the region, it was said that Christopher would present new U.S. proposals aiming to accelerate the peace talks, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Could you tell us what happened in your meeting with the U.S. secretary?

[Al-Husayni] The meeting that we held in Jerusalem involved several matters. First of all, Christopher briefed us on his meetings in Damascus. We also discussed the Palestinian consultations. Then Christopher wanted to hear our views on the developments in the territories. We expressed the Palestinian views, particularly with regard to the issue of Palestinian authority. We said that if they are interested in achieving total security, then we

must have full control and complete authority. Reducing Palestinian authority in the areas from which Israel will withdraw would lead to reduced control, which would in turn lead to reduced security, and that would cause many problems in the future. We discussed other issues with Christopher too, including the organizational aspects and structure of the Palestinian economy.

I think that the meeting was successful, considering its outcome and what was expected from it. Fundamental political decisions are now being considered in Tunisia at meetings involving the Palestinian leadership.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What are the specific obstacles to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on time—that is, on Monday 13 December?

[Al-Husayni] One thing is that Israel has so far been unable to make the switch from a mentality of war to one of peace. It has not been able to change its behavior toward the Palestinian people and make them feel that a new reality is taking shape. This, in general terms, is the problem, which is apparent from the practices of the settlers and even the army. The detainees have not been released. The problem of the wanted people is still unresolved. The deportees have not returned. These are all matters that indicate the extent to which the Israeli mentality is unchanged.

Concerning the negotiations, the Israeli concept of peace is still lagging behind the times. I can state that the basic problems facing us now at the negotiating table—other than the issues I mentioned above, such as the issues of detainees, deportees, and wanted ones—are concerned with the [Allenby] bridge [linking the West Bank with Jordan] and the crossing point at Rafah [on the Gaza-Egyptian]. There should be Palestinian control over these points. Also, Israel is still debating the size of Jericho. It argues that Jericho should be restricted to the area of the municipality. This contravenes the text of the agreement.

There is also the issue of the settlements. Yes, the settlements will be under Israeli security, but it should be provided internally and not externally as they want. The last issue is the size of the Palestinian force that will be deployed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Is Israel's request to delay the implementation of the agreement a sort of bargaining ploy, a maneuver, or way to pressure the Palestinians?

[Al-Husayni] It is a kind of pressure on the Palestinian side, but this is a very serious game. Unless we see clear and specific steps for the Palestinian people and get clear answers and solutions to many of the outstanding problems, such as the issue of the detainees, the wanted persons, the deportees, and a timetable for the withdrawal by 13 December, I believe we will enter a more critical stage than the current one.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] As head of the Palestinian team to the peace conference, do you see any possibility that the implementation of the agreement will begin on the specified date—that is, next Monday? And will the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting contribute to clearing the obstacles obstructing the implementation of the agreement on time?

[Al-Husayni] As you know, the agreement goes into effect on 13 December and lasts until 13 April 1994. Accordingly, it is possible to start [words indistinct] an immediate and comprehensive withdrawal, but we are talking about successive Israeli withdrawals. I believe these withdrawals are very possible; and the problem of the Rafah crossing point can be solved, because the Israelis control another crossing point in Erez. Thus, I do not understand why the Israelis want to maintain any kind of presence at the Rafah crossing point. They can maintain the crossing point in Erez and beyond that toward the Israeli side. The Erez crossing point will be the Palestinian border point and the other side [the Israelis] can set up other points for itself. There is full separation between the Palestinian and Israeli entry and exit points. There may be another problem in the West Bank, because the withdrawal will not be as comprehensive as it is expected to be in Gaza. The West Bank issue will take longer, maybe nine months or even more. So there could be a problem regarding how to handle things at the crossing points on the River Jordan, but I see no justification for creating problems at the Rafah crossing point.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Everybody is awaiting the forthcoming 'Arafat- Rabin meeting; as a Palestinian official what do you have to say about this meeting?

[Al-Husayni] It will be a very important meeting because it will address all these issues. This meeting will face the challenge of peace and the challenge of putting the agreement into effect. I believe it will be one of the most important Palestinian-Israeli meetings held so far.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you, Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, from Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Husayni] You are welcome; thank you.

U.S. Bias Seen in 'Arafat-Christopher Talks

JN1212103593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Dec 93 p 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Official Palestinian sources in touch with the Tunisian capital have told AL-RA'Y that the U.S. position on overall issues, especially the security and crossings issues, is still biased toward the Israeli viewpoint. The sources affirmed that the 'Arafat-Christopher meeting in Tunis on 10 December did not overcome these issues. They said that the U.S. secretary of state is trying to overcome them by luring the Palestinians with future financial aid, taking advantage of the PLO's financial situation.

In a separate development, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, resigning member of the PLO Executive Committee, affirmed to AL-RA'Y that the current intensive U.S.-Israeli move is aimed at overcoming the obstacles facing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, especially in light of the mounting popular opposition to this agreement and its consequences. He said this move comes in the wake of an escalation of the repressive Israeli practices, be it through the Israeli army and security organs, or through the settlers who are armed by the Israeli Government. He said that this Israeli-U.S. move is represented by a series of meetings between Israeli officials and Palestinian negotiators, and will culminate in the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting in Cairo today. He said that this move indicates Israel's eagerness to implement the agreement in a manner that serves Israeli views and interests. [passage omitted]

Al-Tibi: 3d Party May Be Needed To Boost Talks

TA1312084193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, special adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, believes there has been a polarization between the Palestinians and Israel, and each side has dug into its respective positions. The looming crisis was evident for the past week, al-Tibi said, and perhaps it would have been better not to hold the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting for fear of its results.

Dr. al-Tibi told Qol Yisra'el that in order to reach agreement, it may become necessary to conduct more intensive personal contacts or even to call on a third party to exert pressure. Dr. al-Tibi spoke with Yasir 'Arafat following his meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin. 'Arafat said a tremendous effort will be required in order to bridge the gaps.

'Symbolic' Guards Crossing To Mark Accord Date

JN1312090893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Dec 93 p 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Forty Palestinians trained as security and personal guards in Jordan cross the River Jordan Monday [13 December] in a symbolic event marking the beginning of the implementation of the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Apart from the early morning crossing across the King Husayn Bridge, the PLO is not planning any other event in Jordan to mark the occasion, against an almost forgone conclusion that the scheduled beginning of the Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip and Jericho was going to be delayed, PLO officials said.

They said no orders had been received from the Tunis headquarters of the PLO to move units of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) trained as policemen to the Jordan Valley ahead of Jordan Valley deployment in the areas expected to be evacuated by the Israelis in the four-month withdrawal.

The batch of 40 is the latest group of Palestinian residents of the occupied territories to receive training as security guards in Jordan, they said. The group arrived here from the West Bank several weeks ago for training at the Kingdom's facilities, they said.

Like the previous groups, the new trainees also will be assigned to protect strategic Palestinian buildings and personalities, including some members of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, the PLO officials said.

Like the previous groups, the new trainees also will be assigned to protect strategic Palestinian buildings and personalities, including some members of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, the PLO officials said.

In the meantime, all other plans for the deployment for the larger 15,000-strong Palestinian police force remained frozen pending the outcome of Sunday's meeting [in] Cairo between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, they said.

Earlier plans had called for moving some 1,500 members of the Badr Brigade of the PLA trained as policemen in Jordan to the Jordan Valley along with up to 1,300 members of the al-Quds Brigade based in Iraq ready to move into Jericho.

A similar number was expected to gather in Rafah on the Egyptian border ahead of deployment in the Gaza Strip.

The al-Quds members, who have also undergone basic police training in Iraqi facilities, were to have arrived here on Dec. 5 for a two or three-day stay at al-Mafraq before moving to the Jordan Valley.

As things stood Sunday, the units remained in Iraq, ready to move as soon as the PLO leadership gave the green light, the officials said.

It appeared that out of a total of 2,500 PLA soldiers in Iraq, only 1,300 opted to exercise their option to join the police force and move into the occupied territories, other sources said.

"The rest are married to Iraqi nationals and settled in Iraq," said one source. "Those among them who might have wanted to move out of Iraq appeared to have changed their mind after the recent developments at the U.N.," added the source.

The source was referring to the possibility of a lifting of the international sanctions against Iraq in the first half of 1994 after Baghdad recently agreed to long-term monitoring of its arms development programmes as part of the Gulf war ceasefire conditions.

Living conditions in Iraq are expected to improve dramatically with the lifting of the sanctions, which include a ban on Iraqi oil exports, the mainstay income of Baghdad, and this could have encouraged some of the PLA soldiers to exercise their option of settling down in Iraq rather than facing the uncertainties of autonomy in the occupied territories, the source noted.

In the meantime, PLO officials said they were awaiting Israeli permission for the families of the PLA soldiers to enter the occupied territories. All relevant details have been given to the Israeli authorities, they said.

Military Attache on Crossing

JN1312140093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] A batch of 41 Palestinian bodyguards crossed the King Husayn Bridge this morning after receiving training in Jordan.

Lieutenant Muhammad 'Ali Budaywi, the military attache at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman, said that this batch is assigned to protect Palestinian figures and their institutions in addition to protecting the main places of residence of the Palestinian delegation, in the occupied territories.

In a statement to the Jordanian news agency, he added that these bodyguards do not carry weapons or wear uniforms. He noted that this is not the first time such a batch crosses the bridge. However, he declined to reveal the number of forces that had already crossed or the number of forces being trained in Jordanian camps.

Regarding the issue of carrying weapons, he said that the Palestinian leadership decided that these forces should not receive their weapons from the Israeli Army and that the entire issue will be decided in the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Lieutenant Colonel Budaywi praised Jordan for its assistance in training and rehabilitating the Palestinian guards and police force.

A member of the group said that the training they received included military and cultural courses, physical training and information collection classes. He said that they had earlier come from the occupied Arab territories and not from Arab countries. He commended the Jordanian leadership's efforts to facilitate their mission.

'Abd-al-Shafi on 'Democracy' in Decisionmaking

PM1312114093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Dec 93 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] If the date set for the Israeli withdrawal is not met, the Palestinian opposition will have a big opportunity to work to thwart the Gaza-Jericho plan.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The agreement is a reality, whether we like it or not. Thus we must deal with the reality, but sensibly. I believe that the Palestinian opposition should go back to the PLO institutions and work from inside the trench and implement the program the way it likes. I believe that the right way to deal with what happened is to reorganize our ranks and the Palestinian house in order to tackle what happened.

Israel used to move heaven and earth whenever it saw a small Palestinian flag hoisted on power cables inside the camps. How is the situation now? Palestinian flags are flying everywhere, and the Palestinian opposition must exploit this situation in a manner that guarantees the safety of its program under these changes.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe that Yasir 'Arafat will exercise democracy during the transitional phase?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He must exercise democracy. Since the Madrid conference, and even after the 10th round of negotiations, I have been asking him to be democratic in decisionmaking. I am not the only one who says that. Even those who are close to him protest at his method in decisionmaking.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will you accept the legitimacy of the next transitional authority?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If it is elected democratically.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] And what if 'Arafat decides to postpone the elections?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I know there is an intention to cancel, not postpone them. We must vigorously reject that. We must also insist on the fixed date, namely next July.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did you have any knowledge of the secret Oslo negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I knew there were unofficial meetings between Palestinian and Israeli figures in various places in Cairo, Holland, and Paris. That is not new or deplorable, as unofficial meetings are usually held to explore one another's positions so as to benefit from this at the official negotiating table. However, I did not know that a secret agreement was being concluded behind our backs.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did you blame 'Arafat?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, I did. I told him that there had been no justification for the agreement to be secret, at least with regard to me as head of the negotiating delegation. If the agreement was a good one, I would not have blamed him. And because I was not convinced of the agreement, I refused to participate in the signing ceremony in Washington. I also refused to be a party to what is currently happening in connection with this agreement.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] From your negotiation experience and knowledge of many of the figures who participated in the Oslo negotiations, how would you assess the secret negotiations team?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not want to criticize anyone. However, I know there was not a good preparation for these negotiations. For example, there was not a single legal adviser with them.

As there was secrecy in the negotiations, why did they lead us to an agreement in such a manner? Of course, they say that, if there had been no secrecy, no agreement would have been reached. I say that this agreement has numerous negative aspects and has increased the burdens on the Palestinian side. As for the existing situation, we must adopt a steadfast position so that we will not be exposed to pressures designed to cause us to abandon our basic rights.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] As Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi insisted on inter-Arab coordination in the negotiations with Israel, do you believe that the Palestinians have let the Arab position down by signing the Washington agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. It was we who always insisted on and called for inter-Arab coordination, because coordination is in our interests as Palestinians before anyone else. It is we who need Arab assistance, not vice versa. This is why the absence of the Arab aspect was the object of criticism and indignation. We all know that the Palestinian issue has an Arab dimension and a pan-Arab dimension. We have forced the Arabs to abandon their responsibilities toward the Palestinian cause. In fact Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's reply to 'Arafat was worrying. He said: If that is your wish, we can do nothing but agree. I personally expressed disapproval of President al-Asad's statement when I met with the head of the Syrian delegation. I told him that what President al-Asad said is unacceptable to me, because the issue has its pan-Arab dimension and is not up to the Palestinians only. Palestinian independence in this connection is absolutely inconceivable. I hope we will redress that matter, and I have confidence in Syria's position.

Al-Surani Says Draft Constitution Finalized

JN1312093093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Dec 93 p 39

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has stated that a team of Palestinian jurists, headed by himself, had finalized a draft Palestinian constitution for the forthcoming national authority.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Surani, who is also secretary general of the General Union of the Palestinian Lawyers and Jurists and assistant secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Union, said the constitution, which was finalized in Amman yesterday, will be presented to the Executive Committee before the end of this month.

Al-Surani denied that the constitution has been drafted for the autonomy phase and said that it is for a state. He stressed that this state has no borders and said Israel, too, has no borders. He emphasized that the PLO is the authority for this constitution because it embodies the unity of the Palestinian people.

He said the constitution states that the head of state should be elected by all the people for [no more than] two five-year terms. He added that the legislative, executive, and judiciary powers are defined in this constitution so that the head of state will not dominate any of these powers nor will any power prevail over the other.

He said the Palestinian legislative assembly's term will be four years, but the number of its members has not yet been determined. He stressed that the constitution will be implemented following the July 1994 legislative elections.

Al-Surani said the Palestinian constitution rejects monocracy, emergency laws, martial law, and exceptional regulations. He added that the Palestinians have been suffering from such laws since 1936. He added that the Palestinian constitution upholds liberties, human right charters, sovereignty of law, social justice, and democracy, including the freedom to establish parties, trade unions, and societies. It also advocates the freedom of speech, opinion, and creed. He said the powers of the head of state, the ministers, and the three branches of power are fixed.

He said the Palestinian constitution emphasizes the right to private property and market economy, stressing that the Palestinian jurists benefited from all Arab and world constitutions before charting this one.

Fatah Official Talks With Opposition in Syria

JN1012182793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat insists on implementing the agreement with Israel on the date set for this. He believes the Israeli and Palestinian sides should do their best to build confidence, exercise flexibility, and have good intentions. From this premise, he seeks to convince the Palestinian opposition to be moderate when rejecting the agreement. That's why Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki is currently holding talks in Damascus with the leaders of the Palestinian opposition factions on how to iron out differences in the Palestinian arena.

'Abbas Zaki met yesterday with George Habash, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [-General Command] secretary general; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front. He also contacted officials from other factions which reject the agreement.

According to the Palestinian opposition in Damascus, 'Abbas Zaki, who is a moderate opponent of the agreement, gave his interlocutors a picture of the confused state of affairs the PLO leadership is experiencing in light of the difficulties stemming from the agreement with Israel and the sizable opposition escalating within the Fatah Movement in the occupied territories. Some of these difficulties can be seen in the bloody repressive operations the Israeli occupation forces and the Jewish settlers carry out against Palestinian citizens.

PFLP Rejects al-Shawwa as Gaza Mayor

TA1012182493 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] In a leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip today, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] rejected Yasir 'Arafat's appointment of Mr. Mansur al-Shawwa as head of the future Gaza municipal council. The leaflet said that although the PFLP is aware of the city's urgent and acute need for a municipal council, it stresses its firm rejection of the autocratic attitude and the undemocratic methods being used to impose councils and leaders without consideration for the people's requirements and will.

PLO Department Employees in Gaza Named

JN1212112093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Dec 93 pp 24, 20

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B has obtained the names of all technical cadres of the PLO departments in Gaza. These departments will begin work as soon as the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip starts. SAWT AL-SHA'B notes that the Settlements Department is the only department in which names of employees were not announced. There is a total of 34 departments. Following are the names of the cadres:

- The Real Estate Department: This department comprises only two cadres. They are: Nadir al-Banna and Hasib al-Ra'i.
- The Customs Department: It comprises five employees. They are: Zuhayr Kamil al-Nazir, Sha'ban Abu-Sha'ban, Muslih Jadid, Salim Abu-Samrah, and Ya'qub Zaqqut.
- The Income Tax Department: This department comprises six employees. They are: Amin Salihiyah, Taysir Husniyah, Yusuf al- Ghazali, Isma'il Matar, Nabil al-Mubayyid, and Taysir al-Wahidi.
- The Financial and Banking System Department: This department comprises nine employees. They are: Habib Jaradah, Kamal al-Khatib, Nasri Khayyal, Sulayman Hamadah, Mazin al-'Alami, Sulayman Abu-'Asirah, Qismat al-Rayyis, Khalid Hashim al-Shawwa, and 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Shaykh Khalil.
- The Agriculture and Veterinary Department: It comprises seven employees. They are: Muhammad Makki, Sayyid al-Jadbah, Fayiz al-Haddad, Raji al-Khudari, Fu'ad al-Khuri, Fathi al-'Asi, and Sa'id Ghuraybah.
- The Trade Department: This department comprises eight employees. They are: Ghazi al-'Amsi, Mahmud Hasan Sharab, Taysir al-Safadi, Khalid Hashim al-Shawwa, Yusuf Muhammad Wajam, Sulayman al-Hilu, Muhammad Bakrun, and 'Adil al-Ghalayini.
- The Industry Department: It comprises seven employees. They are: Iskandar Tarazi, Tahsin al-Shawwa, Sami Murtaja, Nasir al-Sarraj, Mustafa Murtaja, Ghazi Mushtaha, and 'Ahid Busaysu.
- The Planning and Economy Department: It comprises eight employees. They are: Bashir al-Rayyis, Maha al-Shawwa, Mu'in Rajab, Sami Abu-Zarifah, Muhammad al-Samhuri, Yusuf al-Buhaysi, 'Abd-al-Halim al-Halabi, and 'Ali Badran.
- The Electricity and Energy Department: This department comprises six employees. They are: Fadl Sukayk, Sa'd Khurma, Suhayl Mukayk, Ziyad 'Ayyad, 'Umar al-Khazindar, and Khalid Najm.
- The Environment and Meteorology Department: It comprises four employees. They are: Yusuf Abu-Safiyah, Akram Matar, Hani Najm, and Riyad al-Khudari.
- The Education Department: It comprises four employees. They are Faruq al-Farra, Fawwaz Abu-Sittah, Sami Shafiq, and Wafa' al-Sayigh.
- The Health Department: It comprises five employees. They are: 'Umar al-Khazindar, Sa'di Zu'rub, 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Tibi, 'Isa Tarazi, and Muhammad Abu-Shahla.
- The Housing Department: It comprises six employees. They are: Tahsin al-Shawwa, Husam al-'Alul, Hasim al-Khazindar, Fu'ad al-Bitar, Sami Shafiq, and 'Ali Abu-Shahla.
- The Press and Information Department: It comprises four employees. They are: Muhammad Al Radwan, Tawfiq Abu-Khusah, Tawfiq Abu-Sidu, and Zakariya al-Tilmis.
- The Religions Department: It comprises five employees. They are: Fu'ad al-Khuri, Mahmud Salamah, Yusuf Salamah, Hazim al- Sarraj, and Nimr al-Maqusi.
- The Justice Department: This department comprises seven [as published] employees. They are Jamil al-'Ashshi, Zuhayr al-Surani, Fayiz al-Qudwah, 'Adnan al-Zayn, Muhammad Abu-Samarah, and Nihad Jamal Mushtaha.
- The Traffic and Communications Department: It comprises five employees. They are: Shakir Siksik, Muhyi-al-Din Khurma, Jackie Qattan, Usamah Zimmu, and Salah Khafi.
- The Social Affairs Department: This department comprises six employees. They are: Hashim al-Sarraj, Salih al-Majayidah, Samiyah Sha'th, Munir al-Nikhalah, Salih Nassar, and Salah Hamdan.
- The Culture and Arts Department: It comprises five

employees. They are: Hafsi al-Saqqa, 'Awni al-Kharrubi, 'Isam Halas, Fathi Ghaban, and Sa'id al-Bitar.

- The Finance Department: It comprises three employees. They are: Zuhayr al-Nazir, Habib Jaradah, and Maysun al-Ghalayini.
- The Youth Affairs Department: It comprises four employees. They are: Mu'ammar Busaysu, Isma'il Matar, Hamdi al-Jammali, and Salim al-Shurafa.
- The Women's Affairs Department: It comprises six employees. They are 'A'ishah Abu-Munaydib, Nawal Zaqqut, Sabhah Irhayyim, Widad al-Surani, Malika al-Saqqa, and Intisar al-Sabbagh.
- The Public Affairs Department: It comprises seven employees. They are: Zuhayr al-Rayyis, 'Ahid Busaysu, 'Awn al-Shawwa, Sa'id Filfil, Tawfiq Abu-Ghazalah, Raji al-Surani, and 'Umar al-Sarraj.
- The Arab Relations Department: It comprises six employees. They are: 'Awni al-Hashsham, Mansur al-Shawwa, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, Habib Jaradah, Fawwaz Abu-Sittah, and Zuhar al-Rayyis.
- The Labor and Employment Department: It comprises four employees. They are: Rasim al-Bayyari, Sa'id al-Manal, 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Duqq, and Fawzi Sa'd.
- The Statistics Department: It comprises three employees. They are Yusuf al-Tarturah, Muhammad 'Akashah, and Sami Abu-Tarifah.
- The Antiquities Department: It comprises two employees. They are Salim al-Mubayyid and Mu'in Sadiq.
- The Television Department: It comprises five employees. They are 'Awad al-'Isawi, Marwan Sha'th, Muhammad Dhib, 'Iyadah Abu-Qambaz, and Mustafa Muhammad Muhanna.
- The Public Works Department: It comprises one employee; namely, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Shaqli
- The Bridges and Ports Department: It comprises one employee; namely, Aviation Engineer Iskandar Tarazi.
- The Refugees and Workers Accommodation Department: It comprises four employees. They are: Ramadan al-Najjar, 'Abd-al- Latif 'Ubayd, 'Abd-al-Latif Hamid, and Jabr Faddah.
- The Regional Planning Department: It comprises four employees. They are: George Tarazi, Bassam Abu-Sha'ban, Muhammad Ahmad Matar, and Nihad Jamal Mushtaha.
- The Civil Service Department: It comprises five employees. They are: Khadr al-Tayf, Jabra al-Najjar, Muhammad 'Awdah, 'Abd Qirshalli, and 'Atif Sa'id.
- The Settlements Department: The PLO has not yet determined the names of employees for this department.

Al-Rantisi Urges Residence for Escaped Deportees

NC1112175393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] The regional events illustrated by the conclusion of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour and Rabin's upcoming meeting with 'Arafat in Cairo have been joined by a new development in south Lebanon. Several Palestinian deportees escaped from their camp in Marj al-Zuhur out of fear that they might be returned to Israeli jails. A Palestinian attempt to secure permission for them to reside in Lebanon is under way.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the deportees' spokesman, has appealed to the Lebanese and Syrian Governments to facilitate the escapees' movement and residence in Lebanon, given the special circumstances of their case.

Palestinian Deportees Begin Dismantling Camp

NC1212173693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees began today to dismantle their camp in Marj al-Zuhur in occupied south Lebanon. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the leader of the remaining 115 deportees, told reporters visiting the camp: We have pulled down several tents and will gradually take down the rest. This will become the first camp of the Palestinian diaspora to be pulled down so that its residents can return triumphantly to the homeland.

Israeli officials have refused so far to set a date for the deportees' return. Nevertheless, a truck and a bulldozer were seen parked today at the Zummarayya crossing point where the occupied portion of the south begins.

Al-Rantisi said the deportees will return to Palestine next Wednesday.

Algeria

Commission Member on Chance for Talks With FIS

LD1012222093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Remarks by Kacem Kebir, member of the Constitutional Council, and Major General Mohamed Touati, adviser to the National Defense Ministry, both members of the National Dialogue Commission, in a studio discussion with unidentified journalists on 8 December—recorded]

[Text] [Kebir] First of all, we must reach a consensus on the need for a transitional period. Second, we must not mention the idea of discussing a program for society [as heard] in view of the difficult and serious conditions which the country is experiencing. Third, we must adopt a platform that will be based on the constitution, with regard to the aspect of legitimacy, and on the 1 November [1954] declaration, with regard to historical legitimacy. Fourth, we must also reach, at the [national] conference, a consensus on the objectives of the transitional period. At this conference, an agreement must also be reached, through the platform in which various sides will be involved, on the establishment of structures that will be in charge of running the national conference, the transitional period. These structures will be the presidential body and the national transitional council.

[Announcer] Mohamed Touati talked about the possible postponement of the date of the national conference if all sides agree to that and also about allowing everybody to take part in the conference, without excluding any side, as a previous statement by the Higher State Council had said.

[Touati] There are people who were previously affiliated to the now-dissolved Islamic [Salvation] Front [FIS], who are still committed to Algerian law, who still respect the Algerian state, and who would like to express the views of this persuasion. The statement issued by the Higher State Council more or less indicated that the [national] dialogue could become an opportunity which should be seized to establish a dialogue with this persuasion or with any other persuasions that were previously affiliated to this party.

FIS Sets Conditions for Talks With Government

NC1112162393 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 11 Dec 93

[By Hassan Zenati]

[Text] Algiers, Dec 11 (AFP)—Members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have called on the government to free their jailed leaders as a condition for opening talks on Algeria's increasingly violent political crisis, a pro-Front newspaper said Saturday [11 December].

Six founding members of the FIS demanded the release of Abassi Madani and the rest of the movement's jailed leaders in a communique they handed to staff of the daily AL-KHABAR late Friday.

The six also demanded that all founding 17 members of the FIS who belong to its leadership body the Majliss Ech-Choura, "including the (seven) detained leaders," be allowed to participate in the talks.

In addition to Madani, these are: Ali Belhadj, Kamel Guemmazi, Abdelkader Oman, Noureddine Chigara, Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali Djeddi.

A military court sentenced them in July 1992 to prison terms running from four to 12 years.

AL-KHABAR, which is sympathetic to the Moslem fundamentalists, said the communique was in response to General Mohammed Touati's invitation Thursday to the fundamentalists to join debates on a political transition in Algeria.

Touati, one of the three army representatives on the National Committee for Dialogue (CND), however ruled out the FIS's direct participation in a national conference.

The eight-member CND is charged with setting up the conference, which in turn would work out details of a two- to three-year-long political transition—starting in January—ahead of presidential and legislative elections, which would be held in 1995 at the earliest.

The Algerian conflict began after the military intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of a general election that the FIS was poised to win.

Islamic fundamentalists have waged a guerrilla war against the government since then, assassinating hundreds of people, including Algerian intellectuals who oppose them, and recently a number of foreigners.

Touati said the FIS could not join the national conference because the movement had been banned since April 1992 and its activities forbidden in Algeria.

"Whatever the merits of this measure, it was taken by the country's highest authorities and must be respected," he added.

HAMAS Leader Urges Dialogue With Armed Groups

LD1212134493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] LIBERTE today cites a statement by Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, calling for the national dialogue to be extended to include armed groups. We contacted Mahfoud Nahnah and asked him about the truth of the statements attributed to him and whether this is a new stance on the part of Hamas. His reply was as follows:

[Begin Nahnah recording] In the name of God. Actually, we are in the same position as before; namely, we believe there should be dialogue with all the groups in the Algerian arena.

We want to open the door for dialogue with all Algerians, whether rational, mad, or immature; to get to a point where all sides are involved in the process of drying up the sources of violence, particularly since some of the armed groups now realize that the path of armed violence leads to a dead end and cannot produce any results except the destruction of the country and the shedding of blood. Therefore, if any of these groups— we are presenting this as a proposal—if any of these groups broaches the issue of dialogue, I believe that the Higher State Council and the National Dialogue Commission will not shut the door on any of them.

We are still in harmony with ourselves. When we say rational, we could be referring to a person who was mad and later became rational or someone who was originally rational. As long as the door remains open for dialogue, all the parties should accept dialogue and should not isolate themselves. [end recording]

FLN Secretary General on National Dialogue

LD1212154593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpts] National Liberation Front [FLN] Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri held a news conference today in the capital of Algiers, which focused on the latest developments in the political arena and ways to get the country out of its current crisis. Hocine Bourada attended the conference and has sent us this report:

[Begin recording] [Bourada] FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri dealt with a number of issues and developments in the national arena and the FLN's stance regarding them at his news conference.

Abdelhamid Mehri said that first and foremost the Algerians themselves were responsible for the critical situation in Algeria now, and they must find the right way out of this ordeal. The way out was to make a thorough study of the mistakes made and to be brave enough to correct them.

Abdelhamid Mehri also said that the only path leading to that objective was difficult and hard, namely the path of serious and deep national dialogue among all the Algerians. The FLN secretary general also said that the objective behind a dialogue was to change the policy and not the structures and people. The main task for everyone now was to put the dialogue on its right course.

[Mehri] The aim behind a national dialogue is to change the policy, not the structures. Dialogue must lead to a national accord, which should include integrated and harmonious solutions that would cover all dimensions of the crisis. The central issue in the crisis that must be given absolute priority is how to get out of the chain of violence.

If dialogue with all the political and social active forces proceeds in that direction, the FLN will be fully committed to any agreement reached and bear all of its responsibilities with regard to that. Therefore, the urgent task now is to give fresh impetus to dialogue and to put it on its right course by providing all of the conditions that would ensure its success. The FLN has proposed that this issue be the first item on the agenda. [passage omitted]

[Bourada] Regarding the transitional phase, Abdelhamid Mehri views it as obscure and as an extension of a previous phase with new faces. Abdelhamid Mehri asked about the policy to be followed after 1 January [expiration of the Higher State Council's term], and said:

[Mehri] If we could know that, we would find answers to other issues. [passage omitted]

[Bourada] In reply to a question on differences among members of the FLN Political Bureau, Abdelhamid Mehri denied that there were any differences. [end recording]

Further on FLN Leader's Remarks

LD1212221893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] [Announcer] In a news conference held this morning, Abdelhamid Mehri, National Liberation Front [FLN] secretary general, evaluated the stages of dialogue and recalled the Front's stances on numerous events witnessed by the country. Rachid Ould Mouhin attended the news conference representing the TV.

[Begin recording] [Mouhin] What we gather from the news conference, which Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN secretary general, held this morning at the Algiers Hotel, is that the Front is committed to the dialogue and is working toward making it successful, because, as Mehri says, it is the ideal way to get out of the crisis.

He also affirmed that the aim of the national dialogue was to change the policy and not to change the structures; and that the dialogue required a national agreement which included integrated and harmonious solutions covering all the crisis' dimensions.

Concerning the present central issue, Mr Mehri said, what should assume priority is how to get out of the chain of violence.

As for the Socialist Forces Front's and Movement for Democracy in Algeria's suspension of participation in the national dialogue, Mehri confirmed that these two parties had proposed objective issues that should be studied to find a suitable way out of this suspension.

Concerning a question about the people who could represent the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in the national dialogue, Abdelhamid Mehri says:

[Mehri] If there was a conviction of the need to involve this political trend, and we have always called for this, if this conviction was there it would be better to leave the issue to its people [FIS] to appoint whoever was more capable of representing them in the dialogue. That is, more capable of committing himself to their name, and more capable of implementing the commitment.

[Mouhin] In the end, Abdelhamid Mehri said that the urgent task now was to give a new push forward to the dialogue, and consequently put it on its correct path by providing all the necessary conditions to make it successful.

[Mehri] But the events are accelerating and the danger is impending. It could be beneficial to convene a joint meeting between the Higher State Council, the National Dialogue Commission, and the active sides to discuss the necessary measures to make the national dialogue successful—which remains the ideal way to get out of the crisis. [end recording]

Armed Islamic Group Claims Attacks on Foreigners

LD1112155993 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] According to a fax sent to the newsroom of the Paris daily LE MONDE, the GIA [Groupe Islamique Arme], the Islamic Armed Group, claims responsibility for all recent attacks against foreigners. The GIA stresses that it will continue its attacks until all foreigners have left Algeria. According to private sources, not officially confirmed, some 10 policemen are reported to have been killed in Ghardaia, in a region that had so far been spared by the violence.

Egypt

Mubarak Telephones 'Arafat, Rabin Before Summit

Discusses Peace Process With 'Arafat

NC1112093993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0907 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at his residence in Tunisia. The two leaders discussed the current developments involving the peace process.

Discusses Peace Efforts With Rabin

NC1112131393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning. They discussed the current status of the peace efforts and the latest developments in the talks.

Mubarak Receives Call From Christopher

NC1112094493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is currently visiting Morocco. The telephone conversation focused on the recent developments concerning the Middle East peace process.

Musa Comments on 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting, Somalia

NC1312115393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed the hope today that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will, in the next 10 days, overcome the obstacles impeding the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement.

In a comment today on yesterday's talks in Cairo between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Musa said: It cannot be said that the talks have failed or progressed. The two sides postponed the talks because they need time to consult with the concerned parties.

The foreign minister said Egypt will try as hard as it can to help overcome the obstacles impeding the implementation of the agreement on the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles on the allotted day, today.

On the Addis Ababa talks about the situation in Somalia, Musa stressed that national reconciliation must be achieved among all the parties without exception and on an equal footing in line with the agreement reached with the OAU.

He expressed the hope that the Ethiopian president's efforts to find a solution to the problem will succeed, especially as he has the OAU's mandate. He said the objective is to reconcile and rebuild the administration and the state in Somalia for all the Somalis without discrimination.

Commentary Previews 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

NC1112154093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The Meeting Between 'Arafat and Rabin Is an Attempt To Respond to Doubters and Enemies of Peace"]

[Text] A few days after the conclusion of the African minisummit, which launched the sons of Africa on a new, realistic path toward progress and toward keeping abreast with international political and economic developments, observers and political analysts have again turned their eyes toward Cairo, where Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are scheduled to meet tomorrow, one day before the scheduled date of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The meeting was announced by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher after his meeting with President 'Arafat in Tunis yesterday.

Naturally, the basic aim of the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting is to remove existing obstructions from the path of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, an accord that we believe is a practical step toward the attainment of a Middle East peace and that is effectively linked to the negotiations on the other tracks.

Before we view the significance of the Palestinian-Israeli summit and its possible consequences for the overall peace process, we must first emphasize an important fact. Without President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's intensive efforts to persuade the concerned parties to continue negotiating to eliminate hurdles and resolve outstanding problems, without Egypt's open embrace of the Palestinian cause and its advocacy of it at all international forums, without the extensive Egyptian diplomatic effort, the current progress in the peace process would not have been made. Proof of this is the arrangement of a direct 'Arafat-Rabin meeting hours before the date set for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This underscores Mubarak's frequent proclamation that Egypt is the key to Middle East peace.

Let's return to the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting and clarify its implications. First, we say that the meeting demonstrates the two sides' wish to continue negotiating over ways to implement their agreement in spite of the difficulties.

Second, the Palestinian-Israeli summit foils all attempts by the enemies of peace to obstruct the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Third, a meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo will help to end the serious violence in the occupied Arab territories caused by those who reject peace, both within the Israeli extremist right-wing camp and the settlers and among some Palestinians. It will facilitate the transfer of government affairs in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area to PLO institutions.

Fourth, if 'Arafat and Rabin succeed tomorrow in eliminating obstacles and implementing the agreement on time, this will promote progress on the other negotiating tracks, particularly the Syrian-Israeli track, which is viewed as very important for the success of the peace process. This became especially significant after the U.S. secretary of state announced a possible summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton in Geneva in January. Christopher also announced that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations might be resumed after this summit.

Egypt and Washington have given all the help they can to the parties to the Middle East crisis. These parties must now fully shoulder their responsibility to complete the peace process so that all the occupied Arab territories can be liberated and legitimate rights can be restored in the context of a comprehensive political settlement that guarantees the legal rights of all the region's countries, including the state of Palestine.

The Arabs have done all they can to achieve a just peace for everyone based on the land-for-peace principle. It remains for Israel to play its role. This will become apparent tomorrow after the Rabin-'Arafat meeting in Cairo. The Israeli prime minister is urged to demonstrate, in practical terms, his good intentions and Israel's resolve to carry the peace process to its conclusion. This is the urgent demand of the nations of the Arab region.

Paper Views 'Arafat-Rabin Summit

NC1312083793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that the Mubarak-'Arafat-Rabin summit in Cairo yesterday came at an important time, hours before the deadline set by the Gaza-Jericho agreement for the transfer of authority to the Palestinians. The newspaper said in its editorial today that the summit was convened after talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides reached a dead end as a result of Israel's policy of stalling, which it has followed since the State of Israel was established.

The newspaper added that Israel's declaration that it is not ready to change its position on controlling the crossing points confirms the fears of the public and the international community regarding this unacceptable setback in the peace process, after the world believed that the miracle had happened in Washington and that the bitter 50-year-old conflict had started to make its way toward a solution.

At the same time, the newspaper expressed its belief that these statements do not diminish the optimism expected to be generated from the Cairo summit. This is due to President Mubarak's extensive efforts before the summit, in addition to confirmations by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that the summit was important and addressed the actual problems of the Palestinian-Israeli track. He expressed hope that these problems will be eliminated so that the Gaza-Jericho agreement can be implemented.

Mubarak Interviewed on Terrorism, Foreign Ties

NC1012221093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that terrorism is under control and that it will not last long or have a drastic effect. He also said that Egypt will survive and will be destroyed by no one and that the entire Egyptian people—Government and opposition—cooperate in fighting terrorism.

This came in an interview he granted to Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH. The Egyptian newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM publishes the interview tomorrow, Saturday, through a special arrangement with AL-SIYASAH.

President Mubarak said terrorism in other states is much more serious than in Egypt. He noted the victims of violence and terrorism in the United States, India, Pakistan, Austria, and Italy far outnumber the victims in Egypt. He stressed that if it weren't for the atmosphere of freedom and democracy in Egypt, which allows news to be disseminated, no one would have known anything about terrorism. He added that Egypt is a state of institutions.

In his interview, President Mubarak said that the terrorists are not Islamists but belong to whoever pays them. He described them as a group of mercenaries who get easy money to carry out operations they think are easy and who think they will not be caught. But they are being captured and being duly punished. He affirmed that no one is able to disturb Egypt at home, and it will be difficult for them to halt Egyptian diplomatic activity abroad.

President Mubarak added that it is unjustifiable to attribute the cause of terrorism to the difficult living conditions in Egypt. He indicated that Egypt is not a rich state and that the poverty that exists in Egypt exists elsewhere.

President Mubarak affirmed that the Egyptian economy is improving. The government has made distinguished efforts to correct the economy. He said those with low incomes are genuine patriots who are joining us in the fight against terrorism.

Asked whether foreign quarters are standing behind terrorism, President Mubarak said some foreign quarters with serious domestic problems are trying to export terrorism to Egypt to divert attention from their own troubles.

On his evaluation of the National Islamic Front conference in Khartoum last Thursday in which fundamentalist [usuliyah] organizations took part, President Mubarak said these movements are "fusuliyah," not "usuliyah," because they speak about terrorism, encourage terrorism, and threaten to use it. Consequently, this is not a religious issue, because religion is advice, not terrorizing people. He added that these individuals want to create a leadership through such conferences to give the impression they can act and interact with the masses. But this no longer works. He went on to say that these individuals must pay attention to their own countries and not think of raising the spear of terrorism through religion to hint that there is a leadership. There is no such leadership.

Asked about the presence of a "clique" around him, President Mubarak said this is talk uttered by misfits. He stressed that he has no clique around him and that he watches the work of officials and reprimands and dismisses any official who exploits his post.

On Egypt's relations with the Arab Gulf states, President Mubarak said they are good relations, pointing out that communication and cooperation continue between Egypt and these states.

President Mubarak denied that there are Egyptian contacts with Iraq. He said Egypt wishes to harm no one. It was the first to give advice to Iraq. He expressed the hope that Iraq will remain united and undivided and that the Iraqi people will not be harmed.

On relations with Sudan following the recent raising of the issue of Hala'ib, President Mubarak said: I think that whenever Sudan has a domestic problem, they start talking about differences with Egypt. On the issue of Hala'ib, we have an agreement which established the sovereign border along 22 degrees latitude. We are not concerned about anything else. He added: Egypt does not want to stir up problems with its neighbors; its policy is always to maintain good relations with any neighbor.

On Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said: Al-Qadhdhafi is a neighbor and we deal with him on this basis, a policy that calls for the establishment of good relations with all our neighbors. He added that al-Qadhdhafi is facing difficult circumstances. I always talk with him about several issues frankly.

President Mubarak described Egypt's relations with Washington as "stable and good."

On the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, President Mubarak said it will be implemented but the issue is 45 years old and cannot be solved in two sessions.

Al-Baz on National Dialogue, Terrorism, Economy

NC1012094593 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 6 Dec 93 pp 6-9

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, by Yusuf al-Sharif in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] If you want to know where Egypt is headed, go to Dr. Usamah al-Baz. If you want to know where national dialogue (President Mubarak's call) is

headed, go to Dr. Usamah al-Baz. We went to him and asked him. As usual, Dr. al-Baz was eloquent, quick, enthusiastic, and decisive.

[Al-Baz] The political leadership's real and principled approach is that the dialogue should not take place under the state's hegemony. The president insists on this. The dialogue must be held in a real democratic atmosphere. Doors must be opened for all political forces to participate and contribute their views, studies, and research to formulate a general national response to various current issues. Everybody is equally entitled to participate in this dialogue, which will continue until it completes its work and achieves its goals.

[Al-Sharif] Are the Islamic groups invited to participate in the national dialogue?

[Al-Baz] Any Islamic group that accepts the Constitution, abides by the law, does not resort to violence, and does not advocate the use of violence as a way to resolve differences over doctrinal or practical matters is eligible theoretically and politically to participate in the national dialogue.

The general principle is that the state supports this dialogue. However, there must be a kind of a minimum understanding. The dialogue is important in that it will enable us to better acquaint ourselves with the ideology of these groups and see whether there is a way to avoid the jolts that the acts of violence cause in society. We will try to persuade these groups of the corrupt and dangerous nature of their stands and actions through their own theoretical perception of these excesses. This is because for 13 centuries there have been certain conditions regarding the qualifications that any person must have to interpret the Islamic religion. It is unacceptable religiously and democratically that a young person unqualified in the Islamic religion acts as a teacher, caller, theologian, or mufti to teach others and give himself the right to speak on religious matters while he does not give this right to society. This is while respectable Islamic institutions, such as al-Azhar, Dar al-Fatwa, and our able scholars on the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs do not try to impose their perceptions on anyone, although they are more knowledgeable and qualified. Those youths who have not been provided with knowledge, culture, and religion except superficialities and who try to impose their wrong views with the force of arms are naturally not invited to participate in the national dialogue.

[Al-Sharif] Some sympathizers with the extremist current are asking why the government refuses to initiate a dialogue with the fundamentalist groups that resort to violence and terrorism.

[Al-Baz] The state has the right to refuse to open a dialogue with outlaw groups because it sees this as a useless exercise. However, if other sides wish to conduct such a dialogue, the state will not oppose this.

There is another point. Some people mistakenly believe that the dialogue that popular organizations and public figures hold [with the fundamentalist groups], which the state allows, shows the weakness of the state and its institutions or that this current has earned a bigger share in political work. Regrettably, experience has shown that this dialogue is of no use because the groups firmly believe that their sole goal is to seize power.

Therefore, the required dialogue is not essentially a political dialogue but the eradication of these concepts first. The state presumes that there is goodwill on the part of the citizens. We feel annoyed because some Egyptians cause harm to their society. They could put their resources to good use instead of squandering them. Therefore, we believe that if theoretical dialogue is possible, it should start with correcting these concepts and showing these individuals that their approach is wrong.

[Al-Sharif] What does the state believe the roots of terrorism in Egypt are? And is there a deadline for eliminating them?

[Al-Baz] There are many factors involved, such as educational, cultural, upbringing, political, economic, and psychological. All these factors converge to create a certain phenomenon in society. When there is such a phenomenon in Egypt, which is not something new, it is not easy to deal with it in an absolute manner. If the state made a claim that this terrorism would be eliminated at a certain time, it would be making an empty promise. The same situation exists in Britain, for example, where it is difficult for the state to set a date for drawing the curtain on the IRA and stopping it from committing acts of violence and terrorism. What should be done is for the state to scientifically investigate this phenomenon first. The state should operate with a realistic plan that takes into consideration the immediate as well as the distant future. In the short term, we could safely say that terrorism activities in Egypt will be confined to the next two years. In the long term, the state will be able to combat terrorism through other means of confrontation with various dimensions such as economic, political, educational, religious, media, psychological, and environmental. It can also implement its plan to improve conditions in slums. All these plans take a long time to achieve. In addition, media efforts have progressed a great deal in this area. Regarding religion, which some employ in the service of enlightenment, there are certain proposals that are partly the responsibility of the Awqaf Ministry; the religious institutions; and the groups for Islamic guidance, teaching, and enlightenment. Other proposals are the responsibility of some informed or responsible figures. In addition, there is the foreign dimension. It has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that some international parties and Arab personalities are involved in acts of terrorism in Egypt and the Islamic world. The state does not want to initiate a campaign of oppression to terrorize these people because we are, after all, trying to prevent this phenomenon from spreading and preserve what we have built during the

past 15 years through democracy. What is needed at this time is slow and gradual progress in the direction of greater democracy.

[Al-Sharif] How do you envision the future of the democratic experiment in Egypt, as far as its depth and growth is concerned?

[Al-Baz] We cannot predetermine the future characteristics of democracy in Egypt. There are instructions from the leadership to preserve the achievements of democracy and entrench them even further. In Egypt, democracy is open to all. The state does not attempt to impose an opinion on anyone. The leadership insists that the state does not divert from the democratic course. On many occasions, some people have repeated that we cannot deal with terrorism and violations of democracy without resorting to a greater amount of firmness, and sometimes even greater force and coercion. The state, of course, is sanctioned to do that because it has to protect society. In other words, those who call for taking such measures do not agree with the democratic course. However, the political leadership and the president do not accept these proposals. The president rejected them because he believes that such measures are effective only in the short term. What is more effective and useful in the long run is to entrench democratic practices and expand their arena.

Why mortgage the future on what is happening now? Why destroy all hopes? Is it not possible that a large number of these misguided youths will repent and realize their mistakes? What is required is to preserve the democratic freedom of expression. When in his recent speech the president proposed the idea of a national dialogue on some pertinent issues, he did not do so to contain matters. He did so because he believes that this matter should be given priority on the agenda of national dialogue issues.

The president proposed the idea of expanding the scope of participation when he spoke about the successive generations and the importance of them linking with each other. The present generation of youths must be given the chance to join the active majority to increase the scope of democracy. The president does not want Egypt to enter the 21st Century clinging to the past while the rest of the world is developing at a dazzling speed. Therefore, he believes everyone should put down their concept of the rules of the dialogue. The president is very open minded in this regard and wants to leave his mark during his third term in office. Therefore, he is much annoyed by the current tendency among the parties, popular organizations, and trade unions to confine their activity to mere talking.

Everyone is required to participate in this dialogue freely and to submit his concept in a clear manner.

I believe that before the end of this year the groups participating in the dialogue will formulate their ideas, define the agenda for the discussion, establish the mechanism for the dialogue, and spell out its goals. They must arrange the topics, which are all interrelated, according to their priorities. In the second phase, the dialogue must be held and a plan developed to bring about changes and everyone must participate in the implementation of this plan. The dialogue must not be a mere slogan or an emergency requirement. For example, in the field of education, there must be views, plans, and basic proposals. All this will be accompanied by a great cultural renaissance and an enlightenment plan for Egypt during the coming phase. The president's ambition is that the national dialogue should emerge with a strategic project or plan for a comprehensive national renaissance in Egypt.

[Al-Sharif] The national dialogue experiment is not new. It was preceded by the experiment of the economic conference in 1982, at the beginning of President Mubarak's time in office. Afterward, communication and dialogue between the government and the ruling National Democratic Party on the one hand and the various parties, personalities, national activists, and specialists on the other hand stopped. Why?

[Al-Baz] Regrettably, the economic conference did not emerge with a comprehensive and accurate strategic concept but led to confusion. There was no open market yet. However, now that the market has expanded and the economic programs and mechanisms have changed, we need to focus more on applicable proposals for rationalizing the economic situation and not just to diagnose the problem. The conference defined the basic points while what is required is a complete concept to achieve a qualitative and quantitative economic leap through national dialogue.

[Al-Sharif] How do you see the chances for the success of the economic reform plan adopted by the government of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi?

[Al-Baz] We in Egypt ignored the needs for reform long decades before the revolution. No great revolution in production has occurred. Reform was made only in the field of industrialization and no surplus occurred in agricultural production. There has been industrial progress. However, the pricing system has not been commensurate with the real production cost or the currency rate. Should the currency be fixed according to its real value or according to an arbitrary rate?

In the past few years there has been some change in the economic reform course in the face of growing inflation and limited production. The population growth is still high. Thus, the state has not been able to provide the investments in view of the difficulty and risk of borrowing. This means more deficits and the accumulation of external debts. This affects the value and exchange rate of the currency. All these factors lead to a defect in the economy. Furthermore, the idea of the state playing a vanguard role in the economy has been subjected to a lot of changes recently.

When production increases, the private sector will undoubtedly acquire a large part of it. The opposite

happened in many countries, which did not cancel the public sector or its role but followed the course of developing their management. This provided the opportunity in some economic sectors to probe management. At the same time, the plan for economic change, progress, and modernization requires time. It cannot happen overnight, as happened in some East European countries when the price of some goods went up by 1,600 percent for the sake of their economic reform, which had negative results.

[Al-Sharif] Therefore, what is the government's plan to achieve its economic reform program?

[Al-Baz] Economic reform proceeds from Egypt's realization of its needs. At the time the government started to implement its economic reform programs, it began negotiations with the IMF. At this point, we realized the urgent need to secure a statement from the IMF canceling Egypt's debts to the member states of the Paris Club, which is the largest part of our foreign debt. We discovered through the negotiations with the IMF representatives that they are unrealistic. They believe that the prescription for controlling and speeding up the economic reform process is the same for all countries. Their methods are not appropriate for us because we have different circumstances. Had we adopted their measures at the beginning, we could have created many problems for ourselves that would have harmed our national economy and caused greater damage to it than existed before the reform process started. There is an important issue that the state understands well: the need to maintain social justice and not tip the balance. Social justice in Egypt's case is not a luxury, as it is in some other societies. We realize that we need to maintain certain basics to establish justice in the distribution of the gross national product, as well as social burdens. Therefore, we started a serious dialogue with some international circles and donor countries. However, we managed, to a large extent, to protect our views and stances on this vital and sensitive subject. When the president realized that we need to review this point—whether there is a better way to preserve social justice—he evaluated it as one of the basic issues that could be included on the agenda of the upcoming national dialogue. Now, we need to answer the question: How do we achieve balance and harmony between the requirements of economic reform and preservation of social justice, as the president put it on many occasions. After all, social justice is one of the major pillars of the government.

[Al-Sharif] Regarding reports about the possibility of canceling U.S. aid to Egypt or decreasing it in the coming stages, are there any fears that this will have a negative effect on the economic reform program?

[Al-Baz] It is neither possible nor right for a country like Egypt to do its accounts on the basis of reliance on foreign countries. Such a step would expose the country to a big shake-up because there is no guarantee that the aid will continue to flow, which would lead to structural deficiency and give false hopes that the economic structure is sound. Therefore, why should we make our economic accounts on the basis of the foreign international factor? Why should our accounts continue to be the burden of others? This is not right. What is possible or needed is for us to provide greater aid, when production increases, to set up an economic model in the region along the lines of the Asian tigers. The Asian tigers' region attracted a large number of American and Japanese investments because it was in the interest of both countries to preserve the economic system of these countries and keep them away from the grip of communism.

The second factor behind the political and economic success of the Asian tigers is their capabilities to employ their large base of workers and their maximum use of foreign interest in productive investments by major industrial companies, which established plants in these countries. In addition, these countries continued to introduce modern technology from Europe, the United States, and Japan. The transfer of technology generated massive industrial advancement. The United States and Japan are basically behind this advancement.

[Al-Sharif] How do you view the difficulties of transferring the Asian tigers' experience to Egypt?

[Al-Baz] We used to have a socialist economy that made certain things difficult. We had to change and liberalize our economy. We may be a bit late but we may catch up with them. There must be a national focus on creating an industrial leap in production and technological progress. President Mubarak called on all concerned groups to revise and review our economic situation with the aim of working out a concept for a comprehensive national plan for economic revival.

[Al-Sharif] Certain people gathered from your dialogue, seminars, and statements that you support the establishment of a Middle East market. I followed your recent seminar in Alexandria and you offered a different view confined to economic cooperation among the region's countries. Is there a difference between the two concepts?

[Al-Baz] In principle, we believe in the need for cooperation among the region's countries. There must be cooperation on a regional basis. We agree that this cooperation will not be confined to Arab countries but will include non-Arab countries in the region. But what is the formula for this cooperation and how can we join it? We will not agree to get involved in an economic cooperation plan in the region that is charted by non-Arabs, whether it is Israel or any other country. We must present our concept and the others can present theirs, such as the economic cooperation between Korea and Iran, for instance. To handle this issue seriously, each side must first study the situation because we believe that regional cooperation must begin among the Arab countries.

[Al-Sharif] How?

[Al-Baz] We can begin with a number of the main Arab countries that look forward to a pioneering role in this field. We can look for a possible course and concept for

joint economic cooperation. When I proposed the Middle East market concept after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, everyone believed that it had become an established fact and certain people even began to blow it out of proportion. In reality, nothing can happen in the region without the will of its population. This requires collective will. The idea involves a large amount of imagination. Imagination can become fact when we do a study and make a decision that is in our interest. Afterwards, we can start a dialogue with other non-Arab parties and see what we can achieve in our joint interests. We have no objection to or fear of regional cooperation, provided that we complete the process of comprehensive peace first. Economic cooperation must be built on a sound basis. I stress that cooperation must occur within the limits of and according to the course where the joint interests of all parties converge. I want to say that the concept of the Middle East market within the framework it was proposed must not restrict us and is not an inevitable occurrence. Egypt is trying through dialogue to work out a concept for regional and economic cooperation in the Middle East. All parties can participate in formulating this concept. Through this concept we can see if we can adopt certain aspects of the Middle East market.

Two Suspects in Cairo Shooting Arrested

NC1012130893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Security men have arrested two of the assailants who fired last night at people coming out of the Majidah Movie Theater in Hulwan area. The arrest was made immediately after the incident.

A responsible security source has stated that one of the assailants was caught while walking on the autostrada in al-Ma'adi area. The car used by the attackers, a Fiat-132 with obscured license plates, has been found. The other assailant was caught in the Misr al-Qadimah area. He is wounded and being treated at the al-Ma'adi Hospital under tight security. He belongs to the al-Jihad Organization.

Security agencies are continuing their search for the remaining culprits. Six persons were wounded and a conscript from Cairo Security Forces was killed in the incident.

Group Urges Foreigners at Film Festival To Leave

NC1112194293 Paris AFP in English 1859 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec 11 (AFP)—An Islamic militant group called on all foreigners participating in an international film festival here on Saturday [11 December] to leave the country and claimed responsibility for attacks on two cinemas.

A statement released by the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said one of its units "carried out a successful attack with bombs and automatic weapons" on two cinemas showing films on the programme of the "pornographic Cairo festival."

Fundamentalist gunmen riding in cars sprayed moviegoers with automatic gunfire and smoke bombs after midnight Thursday, killing a policeman and wounding six other people.

The festival, which started on November 29, was due to end late Saturday.

The group called on "guests of the festival to return to their countries," stressing that it could "not remain silent about such reprehensible acts."

Police said on Friday they had captured two suspects, including a member of the al-Jihad organisation, whom they shot and wounded as they tried to arrest him in old Cairo. He was in custody in a Cairo hospital.

Police found sketches of the cinemas on him and details of how many policemen would be on duty outside, news reports said.

Witnesses said there were between eight and 10 attackers disguised in military uniforms.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said the attacks on two cinemas in Cairo's southern Helwan suburb were carried out "very carefully," to avoid hurting innocent civilians.

The targets were the "guardians of eroticism" and "those seeking to destroy our young people through such frivolity," the statement added.

"One grenade alone would have been capable of killing dozens of people, had it been lobbed inside...but the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah would never kill innocent people," the statement said.

Films at the international festival are the only ones shown uncensored in Egypt and usually draw large crowds.

Moslem militants have been waging a violent campaign to topple Egypt's secular government since March 1992.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Invites Abu Nidal, IRA Leaders To Visit

LD1212235293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1942 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhdafi at rally in al-Aziziyyah on 12 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, sons of the true Arab Warshaffana. Descendants of Bani Salim, Bani Dabbab, and al-Jawari. Descendants of the true Arabs. You who marched onto this land well over 900 years ago and made this land yours from father to father, generation after generation. [passage omitted] [crowd chants]

Brothers, your forefathers rose up in order to enter the battle against the treacherous and criminal aggressors, against the Italians. Brothers, from this place they rose up, and they did not do it for money. They had no oil. They rose up. Your fathers and forefathers rose up and they did not ask for money, promotions, provisions, or positions. They wanted to enter the battle. They competed against one another for entering the battle of al-Hani, the battle of al-Chatt, and Abu-Malyanah. Afterward, your fathers and forefathers fought battles that bestowed honor on the history of the Libyan people and the entire Arab nation in this place. [passage omitted]

The enemies wrote with their own hands and admitted as per their historic records that they tasted bitter [setbacks] from the sons of Warshaffana, and how the battles were fierce and violent. [passage omitted]

Italy is not in need of a reminder, it knows this history. But America, Britain, and France need to read this history and peruse these records so that they know what sort of people they are facing, and so that the Western alliance will know what kind of people they will be confronting. [passage omitted]

If they came today, they will be facing a trained and armed people that govern themselves by themselves, capable of defending freedom and capable of defending their fathers' and forefathers' land.

O foreigners, foreign journalists, and foreign ambassadors, O imperialist countries, countries of the unjust alliance, imperialist countries: This is only one corner of the [many] corners of dear Tripoli. [passage omitted]

We fight when fighting is imposed on us. We fight seriously and with an aim. We fight a just fight because we are on our fathers' and forefathers' land. But the colonialist who comes from beyond the sea is an adventurer who lacks morale, and lacks the cause for which he is fighting. He is a coward who, when faced with resistance, will withdraw and run away leaving even his dead and corpses behind as he did in numerous battles.

Defeat is the destiny of the invader. The navies' revelry in the Mediterranean does not mean a thing before people determined to die. People welcome confrontation. The masses welcome listening to the navies's revelry because they are thirsty to enter the decisive battle to inflict defeat on the arrogant enemy.

Brothers, the situation has reached a climax. The Western Christians, Crusaders, colonialists, imperialists, and capitalists have persisted in their audacity. They have insulted the United Nations. They have insulted 160 countries. They have trodden on them with their feet in the false Security Council. Brothers, they have usurped the UN authority. They have insulted all the nations that united and formed the United Nations and usurped their authority and gave it to themselves. Who is unaware of this? Has the world changed into children who believe that the 15 countries represents the United Nations? [passage omitted] Or are America, France, and Britain the world, the international community, the United Nations? No. A 1000 times no. It is a flagrant and obvious forgery. All the people now ridicule the Security Council. All the people ridicule and disparage the so-called Security Council; they disparage and despise it.

But China which constitutes a quarter of the world population stands against their unjust resolutions directed against you, brothers. Despite this, they talk and brag with complete lies that Libya is facing the international community. If China was a fourth of the international community, and if China and India were a half of the international community. Who are they trying to deceive?

If the OAU [Organization of African Unity], to which the westerners have addressed the public and historic insult by refusing its resolutions and by considering it outside the international community when they said that Libya rejects the resolutions of the international community. [sentence as heard]. When the OAU, which includes more than 50 African countries, stands by Libya, what does that mean?

When the ICO, which includes more than 40 member states, stands by Libya, and when the Christian Westerners, who dominate the UN Security Council by force, insult 40 Islamic countries standing by Libya, who decided in their summit in Dakar that they stand by the Libyan people, and that these UN resolutions are null, void, and unjust. [sentence as heard] India said that these resolutions were null, void, and unjust and could not agree to them. China said that these resolutions were null, void, and unjust and could not sign them.

In spite of that, they have continued their deception and disregard and mockery of China, India, the ICO, and OAU. They say that Libya defies the international community. They are the ones who defy the international community. They are the ones who are facing isolation.

They continued to violate the UN Charter. The Soviet Union used to constitute a deterrent. They used to, to some extent, respect international law. When the Soviet Union disappeared the West appeared in its true colors as a coward, immoral, inhuman, barbarous, and shameless, but a coward who was afraid of the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union disappeared, the West appeared in its true colors as a coward and shameless, who does not respect the laws. They only know fear.

Therefore brothers, there is no policy other than confrontation, fear, threats, and scorched earth. We are fighting with our backs to the wall.

When the battle comes we will fight those who falsified the UN Charter and those who insulted the United Nations and transformed it into NATO. Yes, the so-called UN Security Council is now a council belonging to NATO. What is now called the United Nations is NATO.

Regrettably, the UN Charter has been finished and has been trampled on. Regrettably, the United Nations Organization has been finished and has joined its predecessor, the League of United [as heard] Nations. The UN Charter is finished, and it has turned into a piece of paper with which the Westerners will wipe their shoes and stinking noses. This is the UN Charter, brothers. They sanction for themselves what they forbid to us.

Brothers, I will say this before you now. For as long as they force the Arabs to negotiate with their enemy which is still occupying Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine; they force them to negotiate and to forget the past. Their prophet, Kissinger, said it in Arabic "illi fat mat" [what has passed is dead]. Let the Arab nation forget the sacrifices it has offered, forget its history, forget what the enemy has done to it, and forget everything.

Brothers, why do they not say that to themselves? Why do they not say that whatever happened in the era of Bush and the era of Reagan is past and forgotten? They are applying it to us. This is a disparagement to us, and a disparagement and an insult to the Arabs. [passage omitted]

I am inviting Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], wherever he may be, to come to Libya, and I will meet him personally. I will invite Ahmad Jibril to come to Libya, and I will meet him personally and openly before the world. Why is this forbidden? They held meetings with the IRA [Irish Republican Army] secretly while they were bombing Libya, because they said Libya was meeting the IRA secretly? We are now inviting the leaders of the IRA openly, not secretly, to come to Libya for consultations and meetings. [crowd chants] We are sending out an invitation to Abu Nidal, if he is alive, and if he can hear me, wherever he may be [break in reception]

How can the leaders of Europe and America have the right to meet the writer of *The Satanic Verses* out of scorn for, and defiance to us, and how can we not have the right or the courage to meet the leaders of the Palestinian people and their strugglers, and the leaders of the people of Ireland and their strugglers? I say it in front of cowards and those who submit and bow very low, and I say it publicly and assume full responsibility for it, that I am ready to meet the leaders of the IRA so as to advise them not to carry out terrorist actions, and support them openly in their legitimate and sacred cause.

Ireland has the right to freedom and unity, and Ireland is Ireland and Britain is Britain. We said it 20 years ago and now they have recognized it while they were denying it to us, O brothers.

I say before the cowards and those in fear that I am ready to meet openly Ahmad Jibril, Abu al-Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], Abu-Musa [Colonel Sa'id Muraghal, Khalid al-'Amlah, and all the leaders of the Palestinian resistance, those noble and saintly people who are the real fighters for a cause that is among the most holy and legitimate causes, that of a people who have been tortured and deported to all parts of the world. They have been replaced by the foreigners. [Words indistinct] from Russia, the Falashas from the Horn of Africa. How do they have the right to come to Palestine while they threw out the Palestinians in 1948 and 1967? What an exposed falsification! Even children cannot be deceived by it. Only the cowards can keep silent about it. Shame on you, cowards, curse you, cowards. Curse you the afraid, terrified, and crawlers who ignored the facts that cannot be challenged.

The cause of Palestine, brothers, is one of the most just and sacred issues. How can we sell it down the river? How can we sell the people of Palestine openly? We must assume our responsibility and will not sell the people of Palestine. We are driven to this daring talk by the awakening of the peoples, the awakening of the masses. This is not the voice of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. It is the voice of the sons of Warshaffana, al-'Aziziyah. Let them hear this voice, the voice of the militarized people.

I told them that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi does not face them with a regular Army, a tank or a plane, he faces them with an armed people who can never be defeated. The armed people cannot be defeated at all. We will face them with a million and two million trained and armed people who carry rockets and machine-guns, and are able to operate tanks, armored vehicles, and even planes. We will come out to them from the sand dunes, mountains, the desert, the coast, and from behind every palm tree, from every orange tree and olive tree, from every ditch and valley. We will make the soil under their feet unbearable. [passage omitted]

Lockerbie Suspects Again Refuse To Stand Trial

NC1012203193 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Nicosia, Dec 10 (AFP)—Two Libyan suspects wanted in the West over the Lockerbie airliner bombing have protested their innocence and again refused to stand trial in Britain or the United States, in an interview with an Arab magazine obtained here on Friday [10 December].

AL-MAJALLAH, a weekly published in London, said it was the first time the Libyan authorities had allowed the two suspects, 'Abd-al Basit al-Miqrahi and Al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah, to be interviewed on the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, which killed 270 people.

The suspects, former employees of the national Libyan Arab Airlines company, said they were ready to go on trial in "a third country," but they were "confident of their innocence."

They denied being "mixed up in some way" with the Lockerbie bombing, and said they had "no connection" with the Libyan intelligence services, the magazine reported.

They also denied "being subjected to pressure to give themselves up," AL-MAJALLAH said, and stressed that they were living in "relative freedom" in Tripoli, where the interview took place.

The magazine said the suspects expressed "surprise" at the behaviour of one of their former colleagues, 'Abd-al Majid Jiyakah, regarded as the main prosecution witness in the case, and currently living in the United States.

At the end of November the Libyan official media said Jiyakah was "mentally ill," and his parents had called for him to be killed.

Jiyakah had agreed to give false testimony in exchange for one million dollars, the media said.

Libya has refused to hand over the suspects to Britain or the United States on the grounds that they would not get a fair trial, although it has agreed to a trial in a neutral country, probably Switzerland.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been touring the country for daily meetings with demonstrators protesting at the decision by the United Nations on December 1 to freeze Libyan assets abroad and to stop deliveries to Libya's petrochemical industry.

The new sanctions are in addition to an air and military embargo imposed in April last year.

They are intended to put pressure on Libya to hand over the two Lockerbie suspects and cooperate with a French investigation into the bombing of a UTA airliner that exploded over Niger in 1989 with the loss of 170 lives.

Chinese Reaction to UN Resolution Assessed

LD1212093593 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The UN Security Council, which is chaired this month by the Chinese delegate, refused at an advisory meeting held the day before yesterday [10 December] to acknowledge the recent Resolution 838 calling for the trial of the accused [in the Lockerbie case] either in Britain or the United States, the freezing of Libyan foreign assets, and banning the sale of oil technological equipment to Libya.

Furthermore, the Council neither looked at such a resolution nor reconsidered it, which confirms that the resolution was not unanimously passed by the Security Council but by the parties to the dispute, that is, the three Western countries. Hence, it cannot be attributed to the UN.

The chairman of the Security Council, the Chinese delegate, has reiterated his country's rejection of the mandatory sanctions imposed on Libya, reaffirming that China was against sanctions because it did not view them as a way to resolve disputes.

Statement Denounces 'Traitor' at Janzur Meeting

LD1012235093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1932 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Statement read by Salih Mansur [not further identified] at meeting in Janzur on 9 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The masses of the Basic People's Congresses in Janzur region reject treason and damn espionage and acting for the enemy. They abhor, moreover they have decided to crush, those who have gone over to the enemy, those who have taken the enemy's side and have traded their homeland for their bellies and have been blinded by the dollar.

The masses declare [crowd chants slogans denouncing traitors] here to the brother leader [Al-Qadhdhafi] that the traitor, spy, and stray dog 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Tahir al-Hudi is not one of their sons nor does it honor them to have someone like him belong to them.
2. [number as heard] The masses demand: to have him deprived of Libyan Arab citizenship;
3. To call on his family to abandon and disown him, and to declare his killing lawful. [Crowd chants slogans] Otherwise, the masses will reject his family;
4. The masses declare their readiness to wipe out any treason and to crush traitors and spies such as 'Abd-al-Mun'im who has defected, sold his soul to the devil, and conspired with the enemy against the Libyan Arab people. The evidence is in this file. He prompted the enemy to destroy the Libyan people's achievements and occupy its land. He did not stop at that: He sent a Xetter to the colonialist Western countries asking them in a dastardly, depraved, and persistent way to occupy us, destroy our houses, and kill our children.

Therefore, we would like to recall that the aforementioned is not a Libyan in view of the fact that he obtained Egyptian citizenship on the basis of Republican Decree No. 564, issued in December 1978, in accordance with which the aforementioned became an Egyptian national during the reign of the traitor Sadat—naturally in 1978. [crowd chants slogans]. Consequently, we regard the depraved and dastardly behavior displayed by him as having been displayed by an Egyptian national.

Death to traitors, spies, and dollar worshippers. Glory and pride to the heroic, combatant Libyan people and their valiant leadership. God is great and victory to freemen. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit of Bosnian Vice President

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ganic

LD1012133793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, 10 December, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has received Ejup Ganic, vice-president of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Ganic Meets Official

LD1012135593 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1205 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, 10 December (JANA)—The brother secretary of the people's external liaison and international cooperation bureau this morning met brother Ejup Ganic, the vice-president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ali al-Triki, the envoy of the people's external liaison and international cooperation bureau assigned to follow up the initiative by the brother leader to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in what is known as former Yugoslavia. The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the role of the Great Jamahiriyah to find a peaceful solution to the conflict there were discussed.

Also, ways to bolster and strengthen bilateral cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Bosnia-Herzegovina in various fields were discussed.

Al-Qadhdhafi's 'Initiative' Praised

LD1112170293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 11 Dec—Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic praised the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution concerning finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in the region of former Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

Ganic explained that his visit to the Great Jamahiryah was part of the framework of discussing and bolstering bilateral cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Republic, and also making more contacts for finding a peaceful solution to the conflict there.

Ghana President Leaves for Home

LD1012134393 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic of Ghana, Jerry Rawlings, left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah during which he met the brother leader of the revolution and acquainted himself with a number of the achievements by the great al-Fatih revolution. [Passage omitted].

Morocco

King Hassan Holds Talks With Warren Christopher

LD1012224393 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II, with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed at his side, received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Royal Court in Rabat this evening. The latter was accompanied by members of the official U.S. delegation, and the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Rabat. [passage omitted]

The U.S. secretary of state arrived this evening in our country. [passage omitted] Warren Christopher's visit to Morocco comes as the last stage of his tour in the Middle East countries and Tunisia.

Christopher Praises King's Role

LD1012235893 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised His Majesty King Hassan II's role in laying the foundations for the peace process in the Middle East. At a news conference in Rabat this evening, Christopher said: His Majesty King Hassan II and I found common ground on three main points regarding the Middle East problem, and they are the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the establishment of a framework to bolster everybody's trust in the peace process, and everybody's responsibility in establishing peace and a reduction in violence.

[Begin Christopher recording, in English] Naturally, our conversation focused mainly on the peace process. The king [words indistinct] and I listened closely to his advice and counsel. We found common ground on three matters. First, that it is essential to proceed with implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles as rapidly as possible. Implementation on the ground is the best way to show that this... [end recording]

[Announcer, speaking over recording] As regards relations between Morocco and the United States, the U.S. secretary of state said that they are good because they are built on an old friendship. Christopher indicated that he is very eager to visit Morocco in order to seek his majesty's advice and to thank his majesty and Morocco for the role it is playing and for the spirit of cooperation which it has always demonstrated within the United Nations and also for its effective presence in Somalia.

The second part of the correspondents' questions centered on Christopher's tour of Middle East capitals, particularly the meeting between the Syrian president and President Bill Clinton. He said in this respect that Syria's role is essential for the establishment of lasting peace in the Middle East. He added that the Geneva meeting will reinforce the peace process in the region. He also indicated that this meeting will constitute another episode to be added to the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in Cairo.

At the end of this news conference, the U.S. secretary of state reaffirmed that his tour has given a new impetus to the peace process in the Middle East and its positive aspects will become evident very shortly.

Sudan

Al-Bashir: Western Military Intervention Possible

JN1112120593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad Hasan al-Bashir has stated that Sudan's stand on the Gulf war was sound and principled.

In an interview with the Baghdad paper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that Sudan is now a target of imperialist powers' hostility for the same reasons they targeted Iraq. He summed up these reasons as the rejection of Western hegemony and refusal to give up the national decision-making in the interest of the imperialist powers.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir indicated that the imperialist powers, along with the Zionist movement, are launching a war against Iraq on the pretext of implementing UN Security Council resolutions. He said that the only reason for this war is that they want to prevent Iraq from attaining the power it wants. He added: That is why they have imposed and continue to impose the blockade on it under illogical pretexts. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir referred to the imperialist and Zionist powers' pressures against Sudan to bring it to its knees. He said these pressures include a fierce media war to distort its image and impose an economic blockade on it through halting all kinds of loans and foreign aid to it.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir did not rule out that these imperialist pressures against Sudan might turn into military intervention. He said: We should not just sit and wait for such a development to take place. We should have a strategic plan in accordance with which Sudan should be fully prepared for it. He added: Indeed, we have drawn up a comprehensive national plan which takes military preparedness into account.

He added: We should prepare all Sudanese people so rifles would become available everywhere throughout our 1-million-square mile country, and we can be prepared to resist and defeat any power no matter how big it is.

Parliamentarian Urges Closing U.S. Embassy

JN1212182293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Sudanese Parliament, today stressed that it is time Sudan took tangible measures to face U.S. arrogance. The Sudanese official called for closing the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum. He said that Sudan must think up such a response that would make the U.S. Administration the laughingstock of the world.

State Minister Views Rebel Movement, U.S. Role

JN1112123993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Dec 93 p 19

[Dispatch from Khartoum]

[Excerpts] Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, has asserted that the rebel movement in southern Sudan, led by John Garang, receives increasing support from some Arab states at U.S. instructions. He said the legitimate military campaign, which the Sudanese Armed Forces launched in southern Sudan in the past few months to convey food and other supplies to citizens, has broken the rebels' backbone and changed the situation in southern Sudan. The western media have not indicated this change because they do not want to recognize it, he added. [passage omitted]

Dr. Salah-al-Din pointed out that the successes which the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Popular Army troops achieved in confronting the southern rebellion have triggered a campaign against Sudan. This campaign is led by the United States and joined by some Arab parties. It claims that there are human rights violations and is accompanied by pressures made by the IMF and numerous other international institutions to halt the Sudanese military efforts which basically seek to reach a political solution. [passage omitted]

Salah-al-Din added: Holding a dialogue with the United States is useless because it sent us a threatening memorandum when we do not even have a military force capable of striking. Our real strength lies in the popular support, because Sudan is part of a sweeping popular Arab and Islamic trend. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Sudanese position on the Somali events, Dr. Salah-al-Din said the Somali crisis is a model Arab crisis. He added: I went to Somalia in 1989 in a Sudanese attempt to achieve reconciliation among the warring parties. This visit was based on realizing the importance of Somalia as a pillar of the Arab Islamic culture in the Horn of Africa and also in view of the known Somali "spirit of defiance." I believe that the Somalis have excellent Arab affiliation, he noted. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

U.S. Secretary of State Arrives for Visit

LD1012145693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived this morning in Tunis on a working visit as part of a Middle East tour. [passage omitted]

Warren Christopher made the following statement on arrival in Tunis:

[Begin Christopher recording in English fading to Arabic translation] Good morning. This is my first visit to

Tunisia as secretary of state. I am very happy to be here on this beautiful day. I am about to end a tour to the region which lasted two weeks and am looking forward to the last stop on this tour here and in Morocco. I am looking forward to consultations that I will hold with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Foreign Minister Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat.

Stopping in Tunisia is a natural and appropriate thing for an American secretary of state to do. We value our long friendship and history with Tunisia and are looking forward to expanding and deepening them.

Tunisia played a fundamental role in backing the negotiations and pushing the peace process forward—helping the USA in this issue. We deeply thank Tunisia. Tunisia gained a leadership role by hosting the working committee for refugees which emerged from the Madrid peace conference. It was the first Arab country to do so. It is also playing a constructive role with the PLO by [helping] implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. We appreciate the role Tunis is playing. I am looking forward to my meeting with the president and the foreign minister.

Tunisia is very aware of the opportunites which are now within our grasp to push the peace process forward because that peace will have its effect on the whole world and on the region. Just like the USA, Tunisia is determined to do whatever is in its power to make this process successful. I will consult closely with President Ben Ali on the best ways forward. [end recording]

Peace Process Discussed With Ben Ali

LD1012214093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at Carthage Palace, after which he said that the important talks he had today with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealt with numerous issues. He said that his tour of the Middle East had three aims, i.e., to give an impetus to the peace process in the region, to encourage the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, and to attempt to normalize relations between the Arab states and Israel. [passage omitted] The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, and John McCarthy, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia.

Gulf Leaders To Discuss Linking Stock Markets

NC1112193893 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Manama, Dec 11 (AFP)—Gulf Arab leaders will discuss plans to link their countries' stock markets when they hold their annual summit in Riyadh later this month, a senior Gulf official announced Saturday [11 December].

A plan drawn up by a joint committee from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund will be presented at the December 20-22 summit, said GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qassimi.

"The summit will discuss unification of the GCC stock markets and the best steps that will guarantee free dealings within the council," he told the Bahrain newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ.

The GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—have agreed in principle to open up their stock markets to their citizens, but most of them have not implemented the measure.

Experts said linking GCC stock markets would not be possible until the UAE and Qatar joined other members in opening official exchanges.

Dealing in Saudi Arabia is conducted through the most advanced banking network in the Middle East.

Shaykh Fahim said the GCC heads of state would also discuss other points in an economic agreement signed in 1982, including allowing GCC citizens to own property in any member state and removing customs barriers within the 12-year-old political, economic and defence alliance.

However, plans to unify customs tariffs on imports from non-GCC states faced obstacles, he added.

Qatar

Army Official's Visit to Iraq 'Private'

JN1112193493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani has said that the visit to Baghdad on Saturday [4 December] by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Fahd Al Thani, the assistant Army chief of staff, was private, not official.

Qatar is the only country in the Gulf Cooperation Council that has restored its relations with Iraq.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives in Doha 12 Dec

JN1212084093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Doha, 12 Dec (WAKH)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Doha today on a 3-day visit to Qatar. During the visit, the Yemeni minister will meet with a number of Qatari officials.

Meets Qatari Counterpart

JN1212131293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Doha, 12 Dec (WAKH)—A session of official talks was held here this morning between Qatar, led by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, foreign minister of Qatar, and Yemen, led by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to enhance and promote them in various fields, in addition to the current situation in the Gulf region.

The Yemeni minister arrived in Doha earlier this morning.

Leaves Doha After 2-Day Visit

JN1312130193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Doha, 13 Dec (WAKH)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah left Doha for his country today after a 2-day visit to Qatar.

During his visit, the Yemeni foreign minister held talks with top Qatari officials on Arab and international issues and the Yemeni crisis.

Yemen

GPC Welcomes YSP's Availability for Dialogue

JN1112214693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Press statement issued by the General Committee of the General People's Congress in Sanaa on 10 December]

[Text] The General People's Congress [GPC] followed with interest the statement issued yesterday, Thursday, 9 December by the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], which intimated at the conclusion of its recent meeting in Aden that it was available for continued and broadened dialogue to end the present political crisis. The GPC views the statement as a good gesture and a positive and encouraging sign of the possibility of reaching objective and practical solutions to all the points at issue. The GPC had called for them to be addressed through responsible dialogue within the framework of the ruling coalition. The GPC subsequently acceded to a demand by its coalition partner, the

YSP, for the base of the dialogue to be broadened to incorporate national forces and figures from the opposition and from outside the coalition.

The GPC fervently hopes the YSP's Political Bureau's statement will advance the cause of an expanded national dialogue in the interest of emerging from the present crisis. The GPC hopes it will clear the way for the YSP to help the ruling coalition translate the government program into concrete achievements that contribute to building a modern state and developing respect for such national constants as national unity and democracy founded on pluralism, renunciation of violence and terrorism, consolidating security and stability, and embracing purposeful and potent dialogue as a means of tackling contentious matters and crises.

The GPC welcomes the YSP's Political Bureau's statement and hopes the dialogue will continue and accelerate with a broadened base and that the mechanisms are put in place for the implementation of whatever is agreed upon in accordance with a set timetable. This step should help lighten the burden imposed on the the Yemeni people by the crisis.

Anxious to forestall the enemies of national unity and democracy and in order to reinforce security and stability throughout the country, the GPC hopes that all parties concerned will take care to avoid any (?escalation).

Sources: Mediation Failing, 'Dead End' Looms

JN1012150093 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 Dec 93 pp 1, 37

[Report by Ahmad al-Jabali in Sanaa, 'Assaf 'Abbud in Damascus, and combined agency dispatches]

[Excerpt] High-level Yemeni sources have disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that Arab and foreign mediation has failed to resolve the Yemeni crisis. The sources added that the situation is very serious and is heading toward a dead end, possibly an explosion.

Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid said there are deep differences requiring a radical solution, before it is too late. For his part, Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], said: Practically, there are two states in Yemen. He noted the uncovering of a plan to assassinate the members of the YSP Political Bureau in Sanaa.

YSP sources told AL-ITTIHAD the YSP Political Bureau will adopt a formal stance in its meeting today toward the recent initiative of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in which he accepted unconditionally the YSP's 18 points.

Moreover, high-level, responsible Yemeni sources in Damascus have said that all Arab and foreign contacts have not produced any serious results to resolve the Yemeni crisis. The sources said the situation in Yemen is very serious and is heading toward a dead end, and could lead to an explosion.

In exclusive statements to AL-ITIIHAD, the sources said there are contacts between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and several Arab and foreign leaders to bring about a meeting with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The Yemeni president believes that a meeting with 'Ali Salim al-Bid could resolve the crisis.

The sources added that Jordanian, U.S., and Libyan mediation efforts have not produced any change, and that all these efforts have failed to bring about such a meeting.

The United States mainly asked the two parties not to resort to violence and secession, since this harms the interests of everybody. Jordan's mediation failed to get the two men together, because each adheres to his political position. As for Libya's mediation, it was no more than letters addressed to the two parties hoping they would not resort to military action.

The sources expect President Yasir 'Arafat or 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, to make efforts toward the same end. Yemeni sources, however, do not expect any significant change in the foreseeable future. The sources also fear the situation will stay the same, thus aggravating matters and leading toward a conflagration.

The sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the discussions of the dialogue committee are unlikely to end the problem between the two sides, and that the reports of progress in that direction are not true. Nor has there been any easing of the military crisis; any spark might set off a civil war that the dialogue committee will not be able to prevent.

The sources revealed that things are now beyond 'Ali Salim al-Bid's control. Other YSP officials now wield greater influence than before in the party, and so any meeting between the Yemeni president and the vice president will lead nowhere unless endorsed by the entire YSP leadership. While this leadership is prepared to draft the 18 points required to find a solution, this will be contingent on the implementation of three demands. These are the handover and trial of suspects in the assassinations, a pullout of the military from all Yemeni cities, and the endorsement of local government in accordance with the Constitution.

The sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the Yemeni president will not accede to these demands, and cited the following reasons:

Some of the suspects come from the Yemeni president's tribe. As for the Yemeni military evacuating the cities, this would seem to undermine the authority of the Yemeni president. In regard to local government, this is a long-standing demand seen by the Yemeni president's supporters as a way to shake off the capital's control.

All the Arab and other envoys who have sought to defuse the crisis have also sought to emphasize that under no circumstances should things be allowed to degenerate to the point of internecine fighting or a breakup of the country's unity. The two sides were made to feel that it is up to them to work out their problems and in the event this was not done promptly, all indications point to a civil war that may be triggered by neither of the two sides but by a third party. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Attack Newspaper Offices in Sanaa

NC1112145093 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 11 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen on Saturday riddled the offices of a newspaper here with bullets, after it had published details of an alleged plot to kill Yemeni Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, reporters said.

The attack caused material damage, but no casualties were reported.

The weekly SAWT AL-'UMMAL, organ of the country's trade unions and close to al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), said "senior officials" in Sanaa were thought to have offered a 7.2 million dollar reward for the assassination of al-Bid.

In its latest issue the paper, which could not be found at the newsstands, published the names of Yemeni army officers involved in the alleged assassination plot.

Yemen has been in a political crisis for four months, with rivalry between al-Bid and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who heads the General People's Congress (GPC), threatening to destroy the country's fragile unity.

The vice president has refused to leave the southern port city of Aden since August 19.

Al-Bid ruled south Yemen and Salih was president of the north before the two parts were reunited in May 1990.

The GPC and YSP are part of a government coalition which also includes the Islamic al-Islah party.

Interior Ministry Statement

JN1212062093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', a responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated that at 1045 yesterday, Saturday 11 December, unidentified gunmen opened fire at the offices of the SAWT AL-'UMMAL [Voice of the Laborers] newspaper in Sanaa. The bullets were directed at the office's signboard.

Police and investigation personnel immediately hurried to the scene of the incident. Through cooperation with citizens, they managed to identify the two cars that carried the perpetrators before and after the incident. Investigations are continuing to track down the perpetrators.

There were no injuries as a result of this regrettable incident.

Concluding his statement, the source said: The Ministry very much regrets this incident, which is considered a threat to the freedom of the press and SAWT AL-'UMMAL newspaper, which this time has been the target of such hostile acts. The Ministry promises the people that it will pursue the perpetrators of this criminal act to bring them to justice. Through citizens' cooperation with the specialized agencies, the Ministry will not allow the repetition of such acts, which are aimed at causing further security deterioration, disturbing citizens, creating anxiety and sedition, and shaking the trust that exists between the police and society.

Newspaper Assailants Identified

JN1312064593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Pursuant to yesterday's communique concerning the attack on the SAWT AL-'UMMAL offices in Sanaa, a responsible source at the Interior Ministry told the Yemeni news agency, SABA', that police and security investigations revealed that the two persons who opened fire at the offices are 'Ali Saydah Shu'ayman and 'Abdallah Salih Saydah Shu'ayman, who fled the capital after perpetrating their deed. The Interior Ministry reaffirms to the public that it will apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice. The Ministry also appeals to all citizens to cooperate with the police organs and further entrench security and stability.

Saddam Receives Karbala' Delegation, Pledge

JN1212183693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Before leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, 380 virtuous clergymen, tribal chieftains, and dignitaries of the Karbala' Governorate have pledged to remain united behind the leader of the march, the mujahid president, may God protect him and boost his endeavors.

The conferees decided to keep the pledge document in the mausoleum of the noblest of all martyrs, Imam al-Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, so it may serve as historical testimony for future generations of the loyalty and allegiance of the population of the holy Karbala' Governorate to President Saddam Husayn, leader of the faithful gathering, may God protect him.

The pledge was drafted by 22 clergymen and tribal chieftains in the governorate. They are the following: Shaykh Ghanim al-Shamran, Shaykh Majid 'Abd-al-Karim, Shaykh Ahmad al-'Allawi, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Samarmaj, Shaykh Ni'mah 'Alwan al-Fawwaz, Shaykh 'Aziz Muhammad Ni'mah, Shaykh Muhammad Muhsin Sultan, Shaykh 'Ali Husayn al-Tayyib, Hasan Muhammad Hasan al-Saghir, Yusuf Murtada al-Wajidi, 'Abd-al-Husayn al-Khatib, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Latif 'Abd-al-Husayn al-Darimi, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Sahib Nasir Husayn Nasrallah, Mahdi Fadil Mahdi al-Gharradi, Nur-al-Din Murtada al-Budayri, Mahdi Hashim Yusuf al-Khatib, Shaykh Thabit Sahib Harbi, Shaykh Hatif 'Abd-al-Mahdi al-Yasiri, Shaykh Na'if Mahrus al-Hadhdhal, Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Bur', Shaykh Kazim Marhum al-Zurayqi, and Shaykh Hadi 'Abdun.

After the pledge was recited, a speech for the governorate was delivered. Then, a folkloric poem was recited. Thereafter, the gifts from the Karbala' Governorate's population were presented to his excellency the leader president. They were the following: A copy of the Holy Koran, the banner of our master Imam al-'Abbas, may God's peace be upon him, a golden miniature of the minarets and dome of the mausoleum of the noblest of all martyrs, Imam al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, may God's peace be upon him.

Then, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, delivered a solemn faith-inspired speech, hailing the Karbala' Governorate's population—men, women, old people, and children—wishing them further pride and faith under the banner of right, the banner of God is Great.

During the pledge recitation ceremony, folkloric songs were sung, singing the praises of mujahid President Saddam Husayn, leader of Iraq.

Afterward, the men, bearing their banners and rifles, gathered near the dais of the conference hall, where the leader president stood to salute them and bless their jihad position, as well as their patience and steadfastness until right triumphs over falsehood.

Saddam Addresses Karbala' Delegation

JN1212220493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to a delegation of clergymen, tribal leaders, and dignitaries from Karbala' Governorate; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] May God grant the people of Karabala' long life; may God grant the men and folks of Karbala' long life. Thanks be to God that he has guided us on the path that wins his favor—the road of faith and constancy on principles, and an optimistic outlook toward the future. Thanks be to God that he made of you—the great people of Iraq—a remarkable example of humanitarianism, for humanitarianism. Thanks be to God that he helped us take control of our resources, God willing. Thanks be to God that he guided us along the road of benevolence and success and firmness.

We met with many of you in the past. Many of those who have not enjoyed God's guidance outside of Iraq—the enemies of the nation and the people—thought that what they were hearing Iraqis say was mere propaganda and words, rather than a pledge made by men. However, I think that they are now having second thoughts about what they used to say about the Iraqis. When they revise their words with an open mind and a heart gladdened by faith, they will discover their mistakes. But when they take a second look at what they were saying, in the same frame of mind and heart, their error will become even greater.

In any event, thanks be to God that he helped us be on the side of faith and to put our enemies in the spot chosen by him. Thanks be to God that he helped our people to be patient, as you see, and to be optimistic, as we can see in every corner of our society.

As for difficulties, these are the paths of the mujahidin and the faithful. History has never recorded that people can assume a high standing in this world or the life after when their faith is humiliated. In conclusion, or even in reality when one considers this world, this high standing cannot be achieved without difficulties. Tremendous difficulties are the road to great standing. Tremendous difficulties are also a sign of one's elevated standing with God, God willing. We never wanted an abstract idea to look at these meanings and the difficulties experienced by Iraq. But in harmony with the values we have mentioned and in order to preserve these values, we knew before the Mother of Battles that Iraq would face tremendous difficulties, because there is always a delicate point when one moves from one position to another. He either moves forward, with all the possibilities such a move entails; or backward, with all the wrong things associated with this move. Praise be to God for enabling the Iraqis to choose between having the status that is recorded by history and that satisfies their future generations after satisfying their grandfathers and forefathers. This also provides them with a standing with God, God willing, God willing, God willing, such a standing will be high.

As for the people of Karbala', they were destined to be neighbors of our masters Husayn and 'Abbas [grandson and uncle of Prophet Muhammad], peace be upon them—they were assigned with an additional duty, so they should not be impatient with that additional duty. In addition to the duty of citizenship in the meaning you know, and in addition to the duty of faith in the meaning you know, you have the duty of neighborhood and the duty of of links to history. I do not think that the good people will be impatient with that duty because it is a duty decorated with gold. It is an additional path known to be leading to virtue, God willing.

Hail to Karbala' people, hail to Karbala' people, hail to the shrines of Karabala', hail to the men of Karbala', hail to the glorious faithful Iraqi women, hail to the old men, hail to the children, hail to the land, and hail to you. [applause]

MKO Kills Turkish Diplomat 'by Mistake'

NC1212095693 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Nicosia, Dec 12 (AFP)—Iran's armed opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq [MKO] said Sunday [12 December] it shot dead a Turkish diplomat in Baghdad "by mistake" and blamed Tehran for the killing.

Iraq's ambassador to Turkey, Rafi' Dahham al-Takriti, said members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq had been arrested for Saturday's murder of Caglar Yucel, an administrative attache at the Turkish embassy.

Huseyin Kerimoglu, a telecommunications technician at the embassy, was slightly wounded and taken to hospital.

Mojahedin guards opened fire on their car as it neared the organisation's headquarters in Baghdad because the vehicle had Iranian diplomatic number-plates, the Mojahedin said.

The group said the car had been sold to the Turkish embassy without a warning that it was on a list of number-plates barred from approaching the Mojahedin offices because of past attacks on the organisation.

"The car's occupants did not pay attention to the signal and warning of the security guards," it said, in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia.

The group blamed the mix-up on the Iranian authorities, who had shown "ill-will in not informing the buyer of the fact that the car should never enter the security limits of the Mojahedin."

Mojahedin leader Mas'ud Rajavi has apologized and offered his condolences to the Turkish Embassy and the family of the dead diplomat, it said.

Talabani: Government, PUK Ready for Israeli Ties

NC1112162893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Beirut, 11 Dec (MENA)—Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has disclosed that the Iraqi Government informed the PUK that it will recognize Israel and establish relations with it if there is a willingness to lift the blockade against Iraq.

In an interview with the Lebanese magazine AL-SHIRA' that will be published Monday [13 December], Talabani asserted that the Iraqi regime has contacted Israel several times. He referred to mediation carried out recently between the Iraqi Government and Israel by a U.S. university professor.

Talabani announced that the PUK is willing to establish relations with Israel after a Kurdish government is set up in northern Iraq. He denied that Israeli military experts are helping the Kurds.

Paper Views Release of British Prisoners

JN1212144193 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 12, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, has described Iraq's continued humanitarian and peaceful attitudes as a firm approach in its policy and expressed attitudes of a great nation of deep-rooted history.

A paper article today said the colonialist West had used to employ slogans of freedom and equity and human rights for inhumane and dubious purposes within the frame of misleading, propaganda and media machine, while Iraq is pursuing clear-cut reasonable humanitarian policy at internal and external levels.

The paper made it clear that President Saddam Husyan's orders to release this or that from the European prisoners who commited crimes on Iraq's territory, expressed attitudes of great nation which had glorious history and well-known humanitarian civilizations, thus the West should understand our stance according to these principles.

The paper referred to the return of three Britons to their families following an order by President Saddam Husayn to release them in response to a request by British Former Premier Edward Heath, affirming that this humanitarian gesture by President Husayn demonstrated the sharp disparity between humanitarian approach of the Iraqis and brutality of the West towards the world peoples, especially the Iraqi people.

Rabin on Meeting With 'Arafat, Talks, 'Terror'

Rabin: 'Big Crisis' in PLO Talks

TA1312081893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] At this morning's special cabinet session, which ended several minutes ago, the prime minister described the differences between Israel and the PLO on the control of the bridges and the border crossings as a big crisis. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Prime Minister Rabin explained that Israel's opposition to Palestinian control of the bridges and border crossings is the result of security considerations. The prime minister noted that the bridges and border crossings could also be used to transfer military materiel. Such control, Rabin added, also includes elements of sovereignty.

Some of the reports indicate that Foreign Minister Peres adopted a more moderate position at the meeting. Our correspondent adds that the ministers received the impression that the negotiations will continue despite the difficulties and that the problems can be resolved.

At the meeting, the ministers were told that 'Arafat and Rabin will meet again in 10 days and that contacts have already been launched on various levels in order to overcome the differences in the respective positions of the sides.

Differences With PLO 'Disagreements'

TA1312121393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] A short time ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave a briefing to political correspondents. Our correspondent Udi Segal attended the briefing, and he reports:

Anybody who thinks that a comprehensive accord will be attained within 10 days simply does not understand the agreement reached in Cairo last night, the prime minister said. According to him, Israel and the PLO will hold a variety of contacts within the next 10 days in order to reach an understanding and a compromise formula on the three issues he discussed with 'Arafat last night—external security, control of the border crossings, and the size of the Jericho autonomous area—which will then have to be put in writing. Then, there are other issues, the prime minister said.

In his briefing to political correspondents, Rabin said that on the issue of external security, last night 'Arafat proposed joint patrols with an international element, but Rabin rejected the proposal. In the course of their meeting, 'Arafat produced the Alon Plan to corroborate the demand for a link between the Jericho area and the Jordan River bridges. Rabin said the Alon Plan referred to negotiations with Jordan and not with a Palestinian element.

If the disagreement on the question of external security is settled, reaching an understanding with regard to the border crossings will be no problem, the prime minister asserted. He said he had received the impression that some of 'Arafat's men involved in the negotiations with Israel occasionally embellish the state of the negotiations when they report to him. 'Arafat is the dominant figure and is definitely in control of the situation, Rabin noted.

Rabin went on to say that the Palestinians want various symbols of sovereignty characteristic of a state. For example, he noted, in the economic talks in Paris, they demanded a Palestinian currency, arguing that Britain's Central Bank mints a Scottish pound sterling.

Rabin did not define the differences between Israel and the PLO as a crisis but as disagreements and, as noted earlier, he assesses that within 10 days the two sides will have to reach an understanding on the three central issues in dispute between the PLO and Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 13 December quotes Rabin as saying that "there are no sacred target dates and that he cannot promise that the implementation of the agreement will be completed by 13 April."]

Views Status of Talks With PLO

TA1312063693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Me'ir Einstein and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Mr. Prime Minister, what hopes did you entertain prior to your meeting with the PLO chairman? Did you believe that you could resolve all the controversial issues at this meeting?

[Rabin] From the indications I received from both Foreign Minister Peres' and Minister Ben Eli'ezer's meetings with 'Arafat, I was clearly aware that there were still gaps on issues that, in my opinion, are crucial as far as the security arrangements in the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement are concerned. I anticipated the possibility that the meeting could indeed end without agreement, and I left for Cairo with such a feeling. At the same time, in light of what had transpired in the course of the committee discussions, I felt a need to meet with 'Arafat because it is clear to me that he is the only one calling the shots there. All the others give briefings, and sometimes even these briefings are incomplete—or at least that is how things are sometimes presented. Therefore, I realized that there was no alternative but to hold a meeting prior to the 13 December target date in order to clarify for myself exactly what interpretation 'Arafat is giving to those elements that are vital for security in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as well as with regard to the interpretation of Israel's responsibility for external security. Indeed, there were gaps in our positions, mainly on three issues. The first concerns our differing interpretations on the issue of Israel's responsibility for external security, which inevitably also leads

to a different interpretation of the comprehensive responsibility for the border crossings or, in other words, the border crossings from Egypt to the Gaza Strip and from Jordan to the western side of the river. The third is the size of the Jericho area, which of course is also tied to the first two issues.

I have no intention—and I am sure that this will also be the cabinet's position—of compromising on security issues. Moreover, I already said that 13 December is not a sacred date. On the one hand, we are committed to the document of principles; however, one cannot observe dates that, even according to the document of principles, first require the reaching of detailed agreements. The document of principles is a comprehensive agreement. In order to implement it, one must first reach particular agreements.

[Einstein] Mr. Rabin, do you believe that over the next 10 days there is a chance of reaching the agreement failed to achieve until today?

[Rabin] I very much hope so. For our part, we will make all possible efforts, whether through formal channels or various personal contacts; however, I reiterate that all the timetables mentioned in the document of principles are conditional on first reaching agreement as stipulated. The date of 13 December was fixed as the date by which we were to have reached agreement. In the absence of agreement, there are no sacred dates.

[Einstein] Mr. Prime Minister, perhaps Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and the opposition are right to say that this agreement was destined for failure and that the government took the wrong path? Perhaps we should abandon the whole move?

[Rabin] I think that we took the right path; we took a significant step. I have said on numerous occasions that there would be ups and downs, minicrises, and perhaps even full-fledged crises. I do not remember any negotiations between Israel and any Arab element which did include such developments, and we must have patience and forbearance. There is also a measure of brinkmanship here, and if we are strong and determined we will manage to realize our goals.

[Einstein] What is the effect of this delay and of the inability to reach agreement on the size of the Jericho area, as well as on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank?

[Rabin] I think that you people in the media create expectations and almost exhort the Palestinians to do something. The Palestinians living in the territories must understand that they are being given a chance to change their situation. We are talking about an interim agreement that transfers responsibility for daily life from the military government's Civil Administration to the Palestinians. This is an extraordinary opportunity for the Palestinians both to receive foreign economic aid and improve their lives and to try to create a new reality of mutual coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis. I would like to appeal to the Palestinians, mainly those in the territories, and tell them that they are being given an opportunity but that, at this stage, their leadership cannot find the internal courage to make difficult decisions because of various considerations that have nothing to do with changing the daily lives of the Palestinians in the territories and because of issues that are both symbolic and also pertain to Israel.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, you are convening a special cabinet session this morning. What is the point of this? Is it to endorse what happened or, more correctly, did not happen yesterday?

[Rabin] No. I felt that following the meeting, there was room to brief the cabinet so that all the ministers would be updated on the current situation, on what was discussed at the meeting, and on what struck me as the difference in our approaches. I also think it is important for the government to be informed. The cabinet is the body that determines policy, and I consider it my obligation to brief the cabinet ministers and discuss the issues with them.

[Einstein] Mr. Rabin, despite the fact that agreement was not reached, your statements imply that you believe that such agreement will be reached. Is there any intention of carrying out goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians?

[Rabin] At this stage, there is no question of goodwill gestures. We may or may not decide to carry out several unilateral steps. The decision on this is solely up to us.

[Raz] But do you plan to carry out such steps?

[Rabin] Let me explain. This matter was not raised either by me or by 'Arafat at yesterday's meeting. This issue is solely up to Israel, and I will obviously not discuss this matter over the media before consolidating my position.

[Raz] There was talk yesterday of informal talks. Are you perhaps planning to change the whole framework of the talks between Israel and the PLO?

[Rabin] No, I do not think there is a need for that. Contacts have been held since the signing of the document of principles, both in the framework of committees as well as personal meetings. This will continue to be the framework in future, while continuing, of course, to handle ongoing security in the territories, as well as holding contacts with residents of the territories on issues pertaining to daily life there.

[Einstein] Does yesterday's failure to reach agreement now necessitate a change in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in the territories?

[Rabin] The IDF presence was already reinforced earlier because this week marks 13 December, which was almost given a sacred significance. From now on, there are no holy dates; there is only a time framework that is conditional on first reaching agreement as stipulated in the document of principles regarding every future stage. There will be no implementation without agreement on

each stage. Right now, the first stage is Gaza-Jericho First. On 14 December, we have Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] day. This week, we will uphold our commitment to return the remainder of the Hamas people deported one year ago. This combination of circumstances, therefore, necessitates a higher level of alert and more forces in order to deal with anyone attempting to disrupt public order or to carry out terrorist attacks.

[Einstein] Mr. Rabin, with your permission, I would like to go back to the points of disagreement stressed yesterday in your meeting with 'Arafat.

[Rabin] There are three major points.

[Einstein] Yes. I understand that Israel is adamant on security, but what about the definition of the size of the Jericho area?

[Rabin] There is a large gap, which remains unbridgeable for the time being, between how we see our commitment, on the basis of the document of principles and according to what was defined in Oslo as the perimeters for the borders of this area, and the positions expressed by 'Arafat at our meeting yesterday, as well as in previous meetings between the PLO chairman and Israelis. Second, there is the practical interpretation of the ramifications of our continued responsibility for external security and also the related matter of the bridges and the Rafah border crossing.

[Einstein] Mr. Prime Minister, you noted the proximity of problematic dates which require such a large IDF presence in the territories. What about finding those who murdered the three villagers from Tarqumiyah or the other worrisome signs we see among the Jewish residents of the territories?

[Rabin] This was a terrible murder which was roundly condemned by the entire political spectrum. The police are in charge of uncovering the identity of these despicable murderers, and I am sure they will be apprehended.

[Raz] Do the police have any leads?

[Rabin] I do not deal with this; it is police business, and until there is something concrete to report, I am certainly no source of information.

[Einstein] Mr. Rabin, do you think the security forces are doing a good job of preventing growing friction between the Arab and Jewish residents of the territories?

[Rabin] I would like to start off by expressing my deep appreciation to the IDF, the Israel Police, the Border Police, and the other security forces, especially the Shin Bet, for their activity against terrorism and violence. This job is becoming increasingly difficult, with the day-to-day situation requiring—as it always has—the deployment of massive forces in order to protect the Israeli residents of the territories. These are huge numbers of troops. Let me give you an example I have used before: There are 500 separate escort missions in Judaea and Samaria just to escort pupils to school. Sometimes a soldier has to drive with them on a bus, and sometimes military vehicles have to escort them. Safeguarding traffic requires a tremendous effort, both on the major traffic axes and on the smaller roads. One must bear in mind that we are talking about 1,000 km of roads just in Judaea and Samaria. There are 350 km of main traffic axes used by both Israeli and Palestinian vehicles. Terrorist elements exploit this situation and use Israeli license plates, as well as local ones. If you add unnecessary friction with Israelis to the war against terrorism, then the IDF units, instead of fighting terrorism, are sidetracked into confrontations with Israeli civilians, and this undermines the latter's security.

[Einstein] Thank you, Prime Minister Rabin.

Views Jordan, Syria Tracks

TA1312150793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In his briefing to political correspondents today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also referred to other tracks of the negotiations. Jordan is trying to reap a maximum economic profit at a minimal political cost, he said. Ironically citing another date, 3 November, Rabin said: Understanding was reached that day on marginal issues, such as fly extermination. I just hope we do not get stuck with the flies because of the publicity.

Commenting on the Syrian track, the prime minister said: My impression is that U.S. President Clinton would not have been prepared to meet President Hafiz al-Asad had there not been a change in the Syrian position with regard to the essence of peace.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 13 December adds that at a meeting of Labor's Knesset faction the prime minister "cautioned that terror attacks, mainly by suicide operatives, might take place tomorrow to mark the anniversary of the establishment of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He noted that Hamas men attempted to perpetrate six suicide attacks so far this year, including today's attack in which an ambulance was crammed with explosives. According to Rabin, the tightening of the closure over the past few days prevented such attacks within the boundaries of the Green Line and metropolitan Jerusalem." The prime minister went on to say that "he had not received any requests to make gestures, and that no such request was raised in yesterday's talks with 'Arafat. We will decide on gestures in accordance with our interests and with the situation in the field, he said."]

Queried on Peace, Spiraling Violence

TA1012203593 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1849 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Special" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the Tel Aviv television studio on 10 December—recorded]

[Text] [Sukenik] Mr. Prime Minister, after a great deal of reflection, you have finally decided to meet Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday [12 December]. Does this mean that we know in advance that the meeting is going to be successful?

[Rabin] We decided to carry out a significant move that will bring about a gradual resolution of the long conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. I knew that this would entail risks; however, I also believe that it has a good chance of succeeding. I thought—prior to the date popularly recognized as the date on which we have to begin implementing the agreement, assuming of course that agreement is reached—that it was important that the most senior levels on both sides make an effort to meet in order to clarify, among other things, that we are really trying to reach an agreement and that we still have four months in which to complete the agreement, if it is not consolidated on time, as well as to implement it.

[Sukenik] Can this be taken to mean that there is still disagreement on major issues and that this is more of a public relations effort on behalf of the agreement. An attempt to show that things are flowing smoothly.

[Rabin] What you said is not correct. However, it is true that there are still disagreements on issues that at least in my opinion are very important as far as security is concerned.

[Sukenik] Will you and 'Arafat still disagree then at the conclusion of your meeting?

[Rabin] It is not inconceivable that we will fail to reach agreement on certain issues. However, I assume that we will agree on our continued commitment to the agreement of principles and on the need to intensively search for a way to reach an agreement. If we can reach an agreement which addresses the problems of both sides we have enough time to implement it within the six-month framework.

[Sukenik] Sir, until now you have refrained from answering questions about the goodwill gestures—even the symbolic ones—that Israel will make on the date originally designated to mark the start of the withdrawal, or in other words 13 December.

[Rabin] There is no reason for me to make such decisions about goodwill gestures. One can always find ways to alleviate things.

[Sukenik] Meanwhile, mainly because of the terrorist attacks and also because of the delay in the timetable, there has been an erosion, which you must have sensed, in the Israeli public's confidence in this agreement.

[Rabin] I believe in the agreement. More than that, I believe in the vital need to take steps that will permit us to begin resolving the problem between us and the Palestinians as part of the effort to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. I believe that we shall also make progress in the negotiations with our three Arab neighbors that have yet to sign peace treaties with us; however, at the moment, our first priority is implementing the first stage of the agreement of principles. I am aware of the erosion in public support. I am not blind. There has also been an erosion in support among the Palestinians as a result of activity by those who oppose the agreement and continue to perpetrate terrorism. These terrorist attacks have led to a drop in support in the wake of these terrorist attacks [pauses]—not that these attacks have changed significantly, but today they are clearly directed more against Israeli citizens than against the security forces and perhaps even more against settlers. This is because the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad murderers understand that the more they hurt settlers, or Israeli citizens in general, they have a greater chance of stirring up public opposition to the agreement and of thus achieving their goal among both the Palestinian and Israeli publics. They are the ones responsible for this. The Israeli public is only reacting to their actions and dancing to their tune.

[Sukenik] Do you remain unmoved by the right wing demonstrations, as you said once?

[Rabin] The demonstrations are a legitimate expression of opinion. Recently, I believe we have witnessed actions by extremist organizations within the settler community—and not only them—that call for legal steps against the perpetrators. I am on no account accusing the majority of the settlers of responsibility for this. However, I will state things very clearly: the terrorist attacks conducted by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad against settlers and against Israeli citizens, who have been the most common targets over the past two weeks, is meant to bring about the demonstrations you just described, with the hope of foiling the agreement.

[Sukenik] If Israel is currently having a hard time controlling the street and preventing daily terrorist attacks, how can 'Arafat, with his limited power, impose order?

[Rabin] The level of terrorism is not rising on a daily basis. In March we witnessed the highest number of Israeli fatalities in terrorist attacks. I believe that the Palestinian element which will assume authority and make a serious commitment, especially in the Gaza Strip, will have the power and a better chance of overcoming terrorism than we would.

[Sukenik] Even though the data you presented this week shows that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is doing all it can to protect the settlers, is this what they will have to face from now on? Will they be constantly threatened by such terrorism?

[Rabin] If we do not find a political solution with the PLO that will begin by restoring calm and creating a

different atmosphere between the Palestinians and the Israelis—despite all the bitter memories on both sides—then we will find ourselves facing a Hamas takeover of the Palestinian public. We have seen that fanatic religious extremism combined with Palestinian nationalism lead to far worse terrorism. Over the past year, although Hamas carried out a smaller number of terrorist attacks, they are responsible for 80 percent of the Israeli fatalities. Their Islamic religious fanaticism fosters the kind of psychological readiness we encountered in Lebanon among the Hizballah fighters. If we do not find a political solution, we will have to invest tremendous efforts to protect first and foremost the isolated settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. There are 5,000 Israelis between 750,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and 120,000 Israelis in Judaea and Samaria out of 900,000 or one million Palestinians. The settlers are spread out thinly, and the planning of the settlements' location, especially in Judaea and Samaria, except for the 'Etzyon Bloc, does not adequately meet the settlers' security needs.

[Sukenik] In the meantime, at least most of the settlers are situated in an area that will fall under Palestinian control. Mr. Prime Minister, what would you advise them to do? Should they leave or stay and endanger themselves?

[Rabin] At the moment we are talking about the Gaza Strip and Jericho. In the Gaza Strip, Israel is demanding security arrangements that will permit the residents of the Qatif Bloc, Nisanit, Eley Sinay, Dugit, and even Netzarim to stay where they are. The principle which guided us was not to uproot settlements, certainly not at this stage; however, there is no point in discussing the permanent arrangement now. We are adamant on the principle that the settlements stay, both those whose establishment I approved and those whose establishment I opposed.

[Sukenik] But are they placing themselves at risk? Perhaps they should draw conclusions regarding their personal safety?

[Rabin] I myself, as prime minister and defense minister, as well as the entire cabinet, will do the utmost under the changing circumstances to guarantee the safety of the settlers both inside their settlements and while on the roads. It is and always has been impossible to achieve hermetic security, and this will remain the case. Therefore it is their right to continue living in their settlements.

[Sukenik] Did you hear any news from Syria this week during Christopher's shuttle mission? Is there any progress toward recognition of the need for full peace with Israel?

[Rabin] I cannot say so with any degree of certainty; however, I would not be surprised if there will be some progress in the Syrian position on peace prior to the meeting between President Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. I am not saying that this is also the case with regard to the price of peace.

[Sukenik] THE JERUSALEM POST carried a headline today saying that you and your government were secretly preparing plans, that you had recognized the inevitability of a Palestinian state, and were preparing to withdraw to the 1967 borders.

[Rabin] This is a classic example of the media's lack of responsibility. These are simply baseless lies. I will tell you even more. This morning a senior member of Mr. Christopher's entourage phoned a senior member of the Israeli Government and said: excuse me, you briefed us according to completely different guidelines than what we read today in THE JERUSALEM POST. In other words, the United States is aware of Israel's position which is not based on a comprehensive withdrawal to the 1967 border lines. These are irresponsible lies, and I am amazed that an English language newspaper and even more so, that an state-run electronic media organ considers it pertinent to publish such a report without checking things first and to thus cause damage and to perhaps give Arab elements an erroneous impression of the Israeli Government's position. I think that this is an example of blatant irresponsibility by both the written and electronic media.

[Sukenik] Thank you very much, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Netanyahu Comments on Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

TA1212203593 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Studio interview With Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Ya'aqov Eylon—live]

[Text] [Eylon] We have just heard from Cairo about a 10-day delay in the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. How do you see this development?

[Netanyahu] I think the delay makes no difference whatsoever. There is a basic problem here, and that is the raging wave of terror. Every day, including this evening, we witness yet another terror attack. At a time when such a wave of terror is raging, the last thing the prime minister should have done is to rush once again to Cairo to rescue 'Arafat and to get his gratitude for helping him out. I think the prime minister should be honest with himself and with us and say....

[Eylon, interrupting] You have been lashing out at the prime minister and at the government for caving in to 'Arafat's dictates and wishes. However, we see tonight that Israel did not make any concessions but rather dug in its heels and the implementation was put off.

[Netanyahu] What was put off? Making other gestures? I would like to finish what I started to say before you interrupted me. The basic mistake is that we are rushing to the PLO at a time when it is absolutely clear that the PLO has violated, and daily continues to violate, the fundamental commitments it undertook in the agreement. Instead of going to Cairo, what the prime minister

should have done is say: I made a mistake, the agreement has been violated. It is no longer binding on the other side, and it is certainly not binding on me.

What the prime minister should do is to start fighting terror and restore security to the people. He must prevent the release of terrorists—we will yet hear about that, I am sure. He must prevent the return of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other deportees which he scheduled for this week. And, above all, he must prevent the establishment and arming of the PLO's army of terrorists. I think that is the minimum the people expect of him and are entitled to demand from him at this time. That is what he should do, rather than rely on Yasir 'Arafat.

[Eylon] Sir, thank you very much.

Commentary Views Rabin's Meeting With 'Arafat

TA1312115093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Dec 93 pp A1, A8

[Commentary by Gay Bekhor: "Controlled Pressure on 'Arafat"]

[Text] The Rabin-'Arafat encounter seemed to be one of those meetings against which diplomatic strategists caution: an unplanned summit whose failure is liable to cause irreparable damage. At first glance, the meeting did seem to conclude without any results. Contrary to optimistic predictions, no announcement of a withdrawal or a prisoner release ensued from Cairo.

Yet this impression is inaccurate, because at least on the Israeli side, this summit was meticulously planned against the background of the reports delivered last week by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer concerning 'Arafat's weak position in the Palestinian camp. The two had met with 'Arafat separately in Spain and Tunisia.

While Peres had recommended that 'Arafat should be given every possible assistance, Rabin adopted the opposite approach yesterday in Cairo: He applied more intense yet controlled pressure on 'Arafat in the knowledge that the PLO chief is the only one who can produce a Palestinian decision on the last major issues on the agenda—the border checkpoints and the size of the Jericho jurisdiction—within several days.

In other words, the ostensible failure of yesterday's summit was the very objective Rabin sought to achieve in a bid to make last-minute tactical gains from 'Arafat's weakness, knowing full well that this tactical insistence will not harm 'Arafat to the extent of jeopardizing the future of the process. Even as he was departing for Cairo, he was determined not to give in on the issue of border checkpoints—this, on the basis of the understanding that Israel is to be in charge of the self-government's external security (although the agreement itself left the checkpoints issue open) and out of apprehension about the security consequences of the transfer of control to the Palestinians.

Rabin hopes the pressure on 'Arafat will result in the Palestinians' giving up and leaving the actual control of the border crossing points to Israel, with a token Palestinian presence at the site. Another objective of yesterday's meeting was to inform 'Arafat that no changes will take place in the field as long as loopholes remain in the agreement. Yesterday 'Arafat asked that the withdrawal begin at once and proceed at the pace of the negotiations. Rabin replied in the negative.

The controlled Israeli pressure had another objective: to break the "stopwatch policy" of the Palestinians, who made 13 December a sacred date, at the same time repeatedly demanding additional concessions and gestures. And yet, while declaring that the date is sacred, 'Arafat did not burn his bridges yesterday.

The next 10 days will be a field day for peace opponents on both sides, who will be encouraged by what seems like a blow to the credibility of the Washington agreement. Frustration is certain to be expressed in the Gaza Strip, particularly in view of Rabin's didactic attitude to 'Arafat and the Palestinians, which many people will regard as an insult.

Yet the process was not halted: On the contrary, two committees—an economic and a civilian—will pursue their talks today, while an informal, predominantly secret channel will be launched to discuss the disputed issues. The decision to hold another summit within 10 days is also encouraging: It reflects the parties' commitment to attain results by a binding date. It binds Israel, too, because the controlled pressure tactic cannot be employed a second time without harming the process.

The decision to hold the next summit in Cairo again will permit Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to continue pressuring 'Arafat and persuading Israel in an attempt to attain reciprocal concessions. He launched this course of action yesterday, and it may be instrumental in achieving a compromise.

IDF Officer Killed, Soldier Wounded in Lebanon

TA1112184593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] An Israeli Army officer, Second Lieutenant Har'el Shrem, aged 21, has been killed, and another soldier wounded when antitank missiles were fired at a combined infantry armored patrol. The incident happened in the al-Tayyibah-al-Shumariyah area of south Lebanon when the Israeli unit was hit by sagger missiles from north of the security zone. The IDF opened up with artillery fire at the missile launch targets and battle helicopters were also brought in. The wounded soldier was taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Protest Lodged With UNIFIL

TA1312143793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has lodged an official protest with UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] over the behavior of its Finnish soldiers who failed to extend humanitarian assistance to an IDF soldier. It has been learned that after the incident last Friday [10 December] in which Lieutenant Har'el Shrem was killed and another soldier was wounded, the driver of the tank managed to drive it to a nearby UNIFIL position. He asked the soldiers to let him use the radio, but they refused.

UNIFIL's spokesman confirmed to our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the Finnish soldiers would not allow the use of their radio. According to him, however, they did so because their radio equipment is incompatible with the IDF's frequency. He added that the Finnish soldiers reported the incident to UNIFIL headquarters in al-Naqurah, which relayed the report to the IDF. The spokesman pointed out that Finnish soldiers have used UN helicopters in the past to help evacuate IDF soldiers wounded in Lebanon.

IDF Placed on 'Particularly High Alert'

TA1212074293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Israeli armed forces in the territories have been placed on a particularly high alert following warnings of attempts by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to step up attacks. Soldiers have been instructed to be on special lookout due to the numerous events expected in the coming week: the implementation of the agreement with the PLO slated for tomorrow, Hamas day, and the return of deportees from south Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in Judaea and Samaria, Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz, says soldiers have been told to crack down on Jewish lawbreakers and to document every law infraction. He stressed that the troops have been issued clear instructions, and the IDF will use all force necessary against lawbreakers. He said he believes only a small number of settlers were involved in recent attacks against Palestinians.

Gen. Mufaz further told our army affairs correspondent that the IDF has beefed up its deployment on Judaea and Samaria roads to provide better security for the settlers.

IDF Discloses 'First Meeting' With Hamas

TA1312145193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] The first meeting of its kind between senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders in the Gaza Strip and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists was held a few days ago, Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip said in a briefing to correspondents in the Strip. Our military correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports from our broadcasting van:

Shalom from the northern Gaza Strip. The first dialogue between the IDF and Hamas took place during the past two weeks at the IDF's initiative, according to Gen. Almog. No understandings were reached. We did not meet in order to reach understandings, Gen. Almog added. I met with Hamas activists to learn about the mood in the organization, the level of fanaticism and pragmatism, and the balance of forces between Hamas and Fatah, Almog said. Hamas plans to continue its attacks against us, Gen. Almog told correspondents. Several of the activists he met would have preferred the Israeli occupation—as they call it—to continue, rather than autonomy under 'Arafat. This is what Colonel S., deputy IDF commander, had to say:

[Begin Colonel S. recording] As I hear, they are concerned about 'Arafat's regime. They fear a situation in which they will find themselves persecuted, sent to jail, and in constant struggle. [end recording]

'Radical' Right-Wing Body Said Planning Action

TA1212114393 Tel Aviv SHISHI in Hebrew 10 Dec 93 p 14

["First Exposure" by 'Amit Gurevich]

[Excerpts] The members of the EYAL [Fortitude] movement promise that on 13 December, the date when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will begin withdrawing from Jericho and the Gaza Strip, they will be out there to stand in for the troops.

EYAL, an acronym for Irgun Yehudi Lohem [Combatant Jewish Organization], which existed as a partisan movement during the Holocaust, is composed of several dozen members and about 150 supporters. If we could gamble, we would say the name is going to come up often in the coming months.

EYAL is led by seven men. Secretariat Chairman Avishay Raviv, 26, is always accompanied by a bodyguard, an armed EYAL member. On 13 December, they plan to use their IDF-issued weapons, as well as the homemade roadside and other explosive devices they have prepared. Raviv explains that they are setting up to operate out of caves they have recently prepared and equipped.

While the veteran Judaea and Samaria establishment views EYAL as a passing phenomenon, it is still seen as the most radical of all the right-wing movements. For EYAL, Rabbi Levinger, Beni Katzover, and the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza activists are moderates.

According to Raviv, physical force will be used on 13 December against the IDF, the Palestinian police, and naturally the Arabs, but also against Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza leaders who consent to being evacuated. The

Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza leaders are EYAL's primary target, being too moderate in the movement's opinion. Some of them have received telephone threats, handbills were published against others, and there have been cars and houses sprayed with paint.

Raviv names the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza activists who have been dealt with and those who have been targeted for the future: Shlomo Aviner, the Bet El rabbi and director of the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva; Yinon Ahiman, the Efrat Council chairman; Uri Ari'el, chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; Yo'el Bin-Nun, the 'Ofra rabbi and director of a religious school for girls; Yisra'el Har'el, editor of NEQUDA; Shilo Gal, the 'Etzyon Bloc Council head; Tzvi Katzover, the Qiryat Arba' Council head; Beni Katzover, head of the Shlomot Shomron Council; and the Council of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Rabbis.

Unlike other bodies operating in the territories, EYAL is at this stage waging a struggle against moderate members of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza establishment, the cellular phone owners, who are perceived as stooges. Raviv declares that violent force will be employed against them. After Ahiman gave Israel Television what they saw as a moderate interview, he was immediately threatened by telephone. Ahiman has confirmed receiving threats over the past weeks from people who identified themselves as Kakh members.

According to them, they will take over the territory the IDF will evacuate on 13 December. Raviv claims that they intend to shoot Palestinian policemen. Some of them are veterans of IDF bomb disposal units, who have prepared a plan to booby-trap Palestinian police cars.

EYAL has three active committees: security, foreign, and finance. The foreign committee is headed by Yo'el Lerner. Del Griffith from Teqoa', who is at present raising funds in the United States, is in charge of finances.

Raviv supervises a six-man secretariat: operations officer Natan Levi; spokesman El'ad Epstein; Yo'el Miller from Ma'ale Levona; Ari'el Ben-Yosef; Itamar Ben-Dvir; and Menahem Ansler, Raviv's second body guard. In addition to their duties, these people operate three branches in Samaria, Nabulus, and Qiryat Arba', from where other activists are put to action. [passage omitted]

Last week they were busy planning for 13 December. They distributed leaflets in the territories and Yafo calling for expelling all Arabs from the country and excommunicating the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza moderates. Last Monday [5 December], after their previous leaflet calling on graduates to refuse Army service was distributed at Jerusalem schools, Raviv was questioned by police.

Before the declaration of principles was signed with 'Arafat, Knesset Member Rabbi Ba-Gad explored the possibility of the movement's joining Moledet. The EYAL people declined. They did not want to become associated with the establishment.

The two movement members I met last week were unflappable. Their activities are coordinated with Kakh and Kahana Hay, and they make it clear that they will harm anyone, including Jewish inhabitants of the territories, as well as their wives and children, if they agree to leave or voice their support for such a step.

As for the Palestinian police, they pledge to use firearms against them as soon as 13 December.

Right-, Left-Wing Demonstrations Held 11 Dec

TA1212075293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Right- and left-wing demonstrations were held in several locations last night. In Jerusalem, the police detained 19 right-wing protesters who rioted at a left-wing rally and hurled objects at policemen. In the Me'a She'arim neighborhood, ultra-orthodox youths rioted, set trash cans on fire, and blocked roads.

The six NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset members [MK's] are today launching a sit-in strike opposite the Prime Minister's Office to protest the plan to arm the Palestinian policemen.

Palestinian Killings in Tarqumiyah Draw Response

Islamic Jihad: 'Arafat Responsible

TA1012211893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad announced this evening that it would avenge the death of the three Arab family members from the village of Tarqumiyah near Hebron who were murdered by shots from a car with Israeli license plates. The Islamic Jihad declared that the organization held Yasir 'Arafat responsible for the murder because he was a traitor to the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Expresses 'Shock' at Murders

TA1012181693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu has expressed shock at the murder of three Arabs from Tarqumiyah. Netanyahu said that if it transpires that the murderers are Israelis, the security forces should exert every effort to capture them and prosecute them to the full extent of the law.

Meretz Knesset Member Hayim Oron demanded that several settler organizations be declared illegal.

Shahal: No Jewish Terrorist Organization

TA1112094093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said there is no Jewish terrorist organization. He said that those who murdered the three residents of Tarqumiyah near Hebron did not belong to any organization, but had acted on their own initiative. Minister Shahal told Qol Yisra'el that the police have information and policy guidelines to carry out investigations of several extremists, whose numbers are very small—less than 20 people—and whose identities are known. He noted that the investigation into the murders is being conducted in many directions, is at an advanced stage, and he hopes that the perpetrators will be captured shortly. Shahal stressed that we are in the midst of a most difficult transitional stage, and that the only path is to depend on the security forces and to act with restraint.

'Herev Gid'on' Claims Responsibility

TA1212121693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] An organization calling itself Herev Gid'on [Gideon's Sword] contacted a news agency in Jerusalem and announced that it assumed responsibility for the murder of the three Arab residents of the village of Tarqumiyah. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky adds that the telephone message also said that similar acts will be carried out in the coming days.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said this morning that the murder investigation has the beginning of a lead, and that he is certain the murderers will be caught soon.

Arabs' Killers Now Said 'Herev David'

TA1212135893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The previously unknown organization which assumed responsibility for the murder of the three Arabs near Har Hevron is calling itself Herev David [David's Sword] and not Herev Gid'on [Gideon's Sword] as reported earlier. In addition to the threats against Arabs which were included in the organization's message to the ITIM news agency, the members of the previously unknown group also threatened police officers. [passage omitted]

Settlers Council Condemns Murder

TA1112185093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has issued its own condemnation of the Palestinians' murder [in Tarqumiyah]. The Council is offering its condolences to the families and asked the Israeli public not to include all the settlers in what it said was a small, unrepresentative group. [passage omitted]

Violence, Incidents in Territories Reported

TA1212110593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Near the 'Etzyon Bloc last night, an Israeli was injured when shots were fired at his car. His condition is not yet known. At a checkpoint near Hebron last night, shots were fired at soldiers; no one was hurt. Meanwhile, the curfew in Hebron, in place since the murder Monday [6 December] of Mordekhay and Shalom Lapid, is still in effect. The curfew in the villages of Tarqumiya and Bayt Awla following the murder of three Palestinians on Friday also remains in place.

In Gaza City yesterday, four Palestinians were wounded by Israeli Army gunfire as troops tried to break up a gathering of members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. The gathering at a football field was in honor of the 21st anniversary of the PFLP.

[Writing on page A4 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 December, Eytan Rabin adds that on 11 December in Gaza, two Israeli soldiers were lightly injured by stones, and a policeman was lightly injured when shots were fired at the Gaza District police station. Also, "an explosive charge that went off near an Army post caused no damage." The report adds that a 25-year-old Nabulus resident was shot and "seriously injured in the chest and shoulder" when a demonstration was dispersed in the city yesterday.]

'Terrorists' Fire at Bus in Hebron; 1 Wounded

TA1212170993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] About 15 minutes ago, terrorists opened fire at an Egged bus driving from Jerusalem to Qiryat Arba' at Hebron's Ziv junction. An initial report notes that an Israeli passenger was seriously injured. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit rushed to the scene and cordoned off the area. The wounded man is now being treated on the outskirts of Hebron.

Soldier Wounded in Aborted 'Terrorist' Attack

TA1312072593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] A soldier was slightly injured when a car bomb exploded at the Shaja'iyah junction in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that soldiers at a roadblock realized that an ambulance driving toward them had been hijacked the day before in Gaza city. They signaled the driver to stop and fired at him when he ignored their commands. The ambulance crashed into an empty Army vehicle parked on the side of the road and exploded. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier standing nearby was slightly injured by the explosion. He was taken to Ashqelon's Barzilay Hospital. It appears

that the ambulance still contains additional explosive charges, and IDF bomb disposal experts have arrived at the scene.

Colonel S, the commander of the northern sector of the Gaza Strip, said the ambulance had been rigged with explosives. He commended the alertness of the soldiers at the roadblock who spotted the suspicious vehicle in time and thwarted a terrorist attack.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility

TA1312094093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] The Islamic Jihad terrorist organization has assumed responsibility for the suicide terrorist attack in the Gaza Strip this morning in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured. The terrorist was killed when the booby-trapped car he was driving exploded.

Two Arabs Shot by Soldiers in Gaza; 1 Dies

TA1312143393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Two Arabs were shot in Rafah during a struggle with soldiers. A fragmentation grenade was found on the body of one of the Arabs. The two casualties were snatched away by local residents, and our correspondent Moti Amir was told that one, Ashraf Sindi, 27, died of his wounds and has already been buried. REUTER reports that Sindi was on the wanted list and a member of the Islamic Jihad.

There were disturbances in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip during which two locals were shot and slightly wounded by soldiers.

Stones were hurled at a police patrol in Nabulus and one of the policeman was slightly hurt by glass shards.

Freed Britons Arrive in Amman From Iraq

JN1012151993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath arrived in Amman today from Baghdad, along with three Britons freed yesterday. Upon his arrival, Heath announced that a Frenchman and a German held in Iraq will be released soon.

At a news conference, Heath said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that similar measures to those applied to the Britons will be taken to release the two men. He said the Iraqi president plans to release them soon.

Freed Britons Comment on Treatment

JN1012193793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Former British Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath arrived in Amman today, along with three Britons Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ordered freed on 8 December.

At a news conference, Sir Edward expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for facilitating the transportation and reception of the three Britons and their families, who came from Britain, and for the hospitality and generosity they have been accorded.

The three Britons expressed happiness and joy at their release and their meeting with their families. They said they were treated well during their imprisonment and were not subjected to any harm or cruelty.

The three Britons and their families left Amman for their country.

Hasan Receives al-Asad Call on Peace Plan

JN1012184593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] A short while ago, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They exchanged views on several issues, as part of consultations and contacts between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, in light of the critical circumstances in the region.

They also discussed the latest developments in the peace process, in light of the results of the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which covered Amman, Damascus and other countries.

During their conversation, the two sides agreed to continue consultation, coordination, and the exchange of views to serve the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

President al-Asad asked his royal highness the crown prince to convey his greetings to his brother His Majesty King Husayn.

Deputy Premier To Focus on Inter-Arab Ties

PM1312113493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Dec 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Deputy Prime Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Arab Relations, Ratification of General Budget Among New Jordanian Government's Priorities"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has announced that among the first tasks of the new Jordanian Government, headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, after winning the Jordanian House of Representatives' confidence, are inter-Arab relations at the foreign level, and the state's general budget for 1994 at the domestic level.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Dr. Abu-Nuwar said that improving the atmosphere in inter-Arab relations and restoring Arab solidarity on the basis of mutual respect are among the priorities of the present government's foreign policy orientations. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian deputy prime minister did not disclose what steps or measures the government is going to take to achieve this aim. He just said that the government is working earnestly in that direction on the basis that the normal and required thing which is in everyone's interests is for inter-Arab relations to be in their best condition and based on a clear foundation of coordination and consultation, especially at this delicate stage through which the Arab nation is passing, that is within the framework of the international community as a whole.

With regard to working to improve the atmosphere of inter-Arab relations in general and Jordanian-Arab relations in particular, it is worth mentioning that King Husayn of Jordan has personally and on several occasions emphasized the need to earnestly work to build new inter-Arab relations on strong foundations of mutual respect and continued coordination and consultation. [passage omitted]

Acting Prime Minister Named in Majali's Absence

JN1112160593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar acting prime minister during Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's abroad.

Another royal decree has been issued appointing Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, acting minister of information, during the stay abroad of Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, information minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Foreign Minister Comments on Christopher Tour

NC1112101293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said on the Voice of Lebanon's "Saturday Salon" program that administrative reform must be part of a comprehensive process involving salaries, training, legislation, and buildings. The government purge should be one of the steps and not an isolated and orphaned one, and thus become a focus for tempers.

On the failure of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to visit Lebanon, he said that Christopher's failure to visit Lebanon leaves a gap and is unjustified. The secretary of state's statement that he could not visit Lebanon because of lack of time and security reasons notwithstanding, there are issues pertaining to Lebanon alone that Christopher should have listened to. He said that the U.S. secretary of state should have resolved the more difficult problems in the area, which are the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Buwayz maintained that the reopening of the U.S. consulate in Beirut and the visits of some American citizens to Lebanon are signs for optimism.

Regarding Lebanese diplomatic appointments, the foreign minister said that several considerations must be taken into account, the most important are seniority, education, and specialization. He noted that no other political consideration should take precedence over these. He added that the appointment of people from outside the diplomatic corps must be justified and not be made as a favor or something like that.

Minister Buwayz said he did not submit the name of Ambassador Khalil al-Khalil in the purge process. At first he questioned the reason for submitting his name. If his name was put forward for political reasons, this is unacceptable, as the purge is not a political measure. He said he does not have any files or facts to confirm that this ambassador has violated existing laws and regulations as justification for submitting his name for purging.

The foreign minister said that either there will be a comprehensive peace or nothing. He said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement has turned into a new Camp David and a new problem. None of the Arabs alone can assume responsibility for peace; the responsibility must be collective. He stressed the need for progress on all the peace tracks simultaneously and not separately. Buwayz said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement cannot be salvaged through technical measures, but through progress on all the tracks.

Buwayz emphasized that Lebanon has several important industries, contrary to what is being said about Lebanon's being a service economy alone. Israeli industry is fundamentally based on military industry. Lebanon can compete with Israel in several fields, including agriculture. Israel does not have high mountains where apples can be grown, for example. In the banking sphere, Lebanon has huge resources, whereas the Israeli banking system is based on deposits. Buwayz also noted Lebanon's tourist attractions that are not available in Israel, particularly snow.

Hizballah Will Not Discuss MIA's With U.S.

NC0912182093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Hizballah official Husayn al-Musawi announced today that Hizballah wishes to discuss the issue of the Israeli MIA's with a neutral party, not with the United States. He said Hizballah would like to reach an agreement that will include the release of hundreds of Lebanese nationals detained in Israel.

Al-Musawi reported that Hizballah has the remains of two Israeli soldiers who went missing in Lebanon in the 1980's.

Nasrallah: U.S. 'Not Qualified'

NC1112141593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has declared the party's willingness to discuss the issue of the Israeli soldiers and Lahdist [South Lebanese Army] agents detained by Hizballah in return for the release of all the Lebanese prisoners and detainees in the Israeli occupation prisons.

In a television interview, Nasrallah said: We are ready to discuss this issue with international and humanitarian organizations and with the friendly parties that support our people's right to resistance. We refuse to meet any official delegation of the U.S. Administration or Congress, because the U.S. Administration ignores the fate of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese detainees, prisoners, and hostages in Israeli prisons. They only discuss the fates of some Israeli soldiers who were taken prisoner on Lebanese territory.

Nasrallah added that the U.S. Administration is not qualified at all to play a humanitarian role.

Al-Hirawi Leaves for Talks With Syria's al-Asad

NC1212091793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Beirut for Damascus at 0900 today for a summit meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The two presidents will review the latest developments following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region.

In a report from Damascus, the summit meeting between Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad began at 1030.

Returns After Talks

NC1212175493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Regional developments resulting from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region have necessitated a Lebanese-Syrian summit to assess the situation and coordinate bilateral stances.

The summit ended this afternoon and President al-Hirawi returned to Beirut. He was seen off at the al-Masna' border point by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Urges UN To Secure Release of Prisoners

NC1012104593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has called on UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali to work for the release of 272 Lebanese detained by Israel.

In a letter to Dr. Butrus-Ghali on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the foreign minister asked for a fact-finding mission to look into the detention conditions of 272 Lebanese being held in the area occupied by Israel in southern Lebanon and help secure their release as soon as possible. Buwayz added that these detainees are denied visits by their relatives or representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He affirmed that the prisoners face physical and psychological torture, as confirmed by an Amnesty International report.

'Occupation Forces' Bombard Southern Villages

NC1012171093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] We have just received the following report from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah:

The occupation forces stepped up their bombardment and sniper fire of the defenseless southern villages this afternoon. Resistance men attacked positions manned by occupation forces and their militia in Sujud, 'Alman, and al-Shumariyah.

The occupation forces' artillery in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah pounded Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, the al-Litani River, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and Mazra'at al-Hamra' this afternoon, using 120-mm shells. The shelling continued intermittently until 1715. The al-Litani River was raked with 12.7-mm machine guns and two Israeli helicopters strafed the al-Litani woods at 1630 with large-caliber machine guns.

Other locations including al-Jabal al-Akhdar, the Iqlim al-Tuffah ridges, and the area surrounding the occupation forces' position in Qal'at al-Shaqif came under Israeli bombardment.

According to a resistance source, an Israeli armored vehicle was put out of commission at the Israeli position. The Islamic Resistance issued a statement, saying its men shelled the Sujud position with mortars this afternoon. There have been no immediate reports on losses among the position's personnel, because the occupations forces have thrown a security cordon around the area.

Israeli Artillery Injures 4 in al-Nabatiyah

NC1312090193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Extreme tension now prevails in al-Nabatiyah and the central sector areas in the security strip after a morning salvo of Israeli artillery shells that wounded four people in al-Nabatiyah, including the head of St. Anthony Monastery, Father Jirjis Nasr.

Our military correspondent reports that four Katyusha rockets landed in al-Buwaydah area in the woods of Marj 'Uyun Town. Israeli forces have been raking Wadi al-Saluqi and Wadi al-Hujayr for some time now, while an MK reconnaissance aircraft flew over the area. [passage omitted]

The Islamic resistance claimed the destruction of an Israeli tank in al-Dabshah Post in a mortar and rocket attack on the post by its personnel this morning. In a later statement, the Islamic resistance said it retaliated for the shelling of al-Nabatiyah by bombarding Israeli posts on al-Dabshah, 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Tuhrah, and al-Suwayda' hills.

Our correspondent, who toured al-Nabatiyah after the shelling, says al-Sayyidah School, which is run by the St. Anthony nuns, received a direct hit and that some shells did not explode. Most of the city's schools suspended classes, and the Monday market was disrupted. [passage omitted]

Withdrawal Schedule Plan Submitted to Christopher

PM1012164493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Salwa al-'Ustuwani, Tariq Tarshishi, and Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Alternative Syrian Plan for Withdrawal From Golan"]

[Excerpts] Damascus, Beirut, Tunis, London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher confirmed in Damascus yesterday that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton will meet in Geneva in mid-January. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources have said that a summit meeting will be held in Cairo soon between President al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to discuss the results of Christopher's tour.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Christopher received in Damascus a Syrian schedule plan for withdrawal from the Golan, as an alternative to an Israeli plan Christopher had discussed with Syrian officials and which extends to the year 2000.

The sources pointed out that the Syrian proposals stipulate that withdrawal should be conducted in two stages only, that international forces be deployed in these areas at the same time, and that there should be a pledge to meet the security arrangements requirements Christopher received from Damascus. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Holds Closed Meeting With al-Hirawi

JN1212172293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1145 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended. This meeting was followed by a closed meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The closed meeting was followed by an expanded meeting attended by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, the vice presidents; Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister; Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Dr. Muhammad Harabah, the interior minister; Dr. Muhammad Salman, the information minister; Wahib Fadil, the minister of state for presidential affairs; and Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs.

'Unified' Conclusions Reached

JN1212182993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1145 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended. This meeting was followed by a closed meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, the two sides held a detailed and comprehensive review of the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks and reached unified conclusions. They also discussed future working steps that were announced within the framework of the peace process.

Talks also covered bilateral relations. The two presidents were satisfied with the development of these relations on the various levels. They discussed holding a Higher Joint Syrian-Lebanese Council meeting soon.

Commentary Views 'Successful' Christopher Tour

JN1012155493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Observers view U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region as successful, and believe the tour resulted in more than one achievement.

First, the tour resulted in the announcement of the mid-January summit meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. Observers believe this achievement is important for the peace process and its progress, and also equally important for bilateral relations.

Christopher's second achievement during his tour was arranging for the resumption of the Washington bilateral talks through certain prior steps. Since the declared and main objective of the efforts by the U.S. official in the region is to secure the resumption of the peace talks, then what he achieved during this tour should be contemplated.

Clearly, the announcement about holding two meetings before the resumption of the talks—the first between the heads of the Syrian and Lebanese delegations with U.S. officials in Washington and the second grouping the leaders of all delegations to the talks, following which an agreement will be reached on the resumption of the rounds of negotiations—illustrates the desire to prepare for the next round of negotiations in a manner that will lead to real progress toward the just and desired peace. This is what Syria demanded and emphasized when it stressed that it would not agree to resume talks just for the sake of resumption, or to provide a cover for continuing the march of separate deals. Syria called for guaranteeing essential progress toward peace as a prerequisite for agreeing to the resumption of talks.

In his news conference in Damascus, Christopher emphasized that the meetings that will be held next January to prepare for the Washington bilateral talks aim at proceeding with the peace process in accordance with the Madrid formula. This emphasis directly or indirectly reflects the failure of Israeli efforts over the

past three months to circumvent this formula by calling for secret negotiations and partial deals. Furthermore, the summit meeting to be held between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Bill Clinton clearly represents the U.S. position, which the U.S. Administration repeatedly declared, on Syria's central role in the peace process. This represents another setback for recent Israeli attempts to isolate this role from the peace process, minimize it, or cut it to size. We still remember Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statement more than one month ago when he called on the world's countries and the United States not to exaggerate the Syrian role in the peace process. The results of Christopher's tour in the region are the best answer to Peres' statement. It became clear that no one can dwarf the role of Syria and its leader in making peace.

Despite the achievements of Christopher's tour, and in light of previous Israeli attempts, we do not rule out the possibility that Israel will continue the course of maneuvers it has followed so far, either to evade the Madrid formula or to prevent progress in the Washington bilateral talks. Israel may have accepted returning to the Washington bilateral talks on clear principles that guarantee movement toward a just and comprehensive peace, but statements by Israeli officials indicate that they are thinking of ways to use the resumption of negotiations to rescue the policy of separate deals launched by the Oslo agreement, which is about to drown in the ongoing bloody confrontations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel should know that the objective of resuming negotiations will not be to entrench the policy of separate deals, as it hopes, but to advance the formula of a comprehensive and just peace, as defined in Madrid, and in accordance with the principles of this formula. All Israel's maneuvers that oppose this trend will fail, as its maneuvers and attempts have failed during the past two or three months.

Christopher's Tour, Israeli Policy Viewed

JN1112105793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Dec 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on Syria's regional role, the importance of which has been proven by events. The paper states that the effectiveness and importance of the Syrian role and position stem from Syria's adherence to Arab rights, which have been acknowledged by the United Nations, from its respect for the international legitimacy, and from its sincere Arab and international dealings. The paper says that this importance has been enhanced by Damascus' successful efforts to expose Israel's anti-peace role.

AL-THAWRAH refers to the U.S. secretary of state's appreciation for Syria's cooperation to boost the peace process toward its agreed upon objective and his assertion that Syria is a very important regional state for the peace process. He also stressed that the United States is committed to a comprehensive regional solution and the resumption of negotiations on all tracks.

AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. emphasis on the need for a comprehensive solution agrees with Syria's position which is aimed at establishing a just, comprehensive peace, to which the region aspires. Events have proven that such a peace is attainable only through observing the constant principles of the Syrian position, especially the one calling for a comprehensive solution in accordance with its specified bases; namely, full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and ensuring the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Mr. Christopher expressed optimism about what can be achieved in the future with respect to the peace process. Meanwhile, those who consider his tour a success take into consideration that it has achieved a number of important results, headed by the announcement of a summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton in Geneva in mid-January.

AL-THAWRAH explains that President Clinton views the meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad as an opportunity to discuss the requirements for reaching a peace agreement and will help put in place a vital cornerstone in the effort to build a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: Welcoming the effort being exerted to advance the peace process toward a just, comprehensive peace, Syria cautions against the gravity of Israel's anti-peace position and failure so far to declare commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. The paper says that it is necessary to prepare for the next round of talks in a manner that ensures real progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, as well as other tracks. What matters is not the resumption of the talks. This is true because Syria accepts nothing short of full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Afghanistan

Transfer of Prime Minister's Powers Approved

LD1112172593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] The press office of the Presidency reports to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY: Because the esteemed prime minister previously delegated the authority of the prime ministership to the esteemed [Communications Minister] Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqqad, the decision has received the approval of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and he has issued this written instruction: Because esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqqad has been delegated the authority of the prime ministership by the prime minister, related sources are being instructed that, as of this date, brother Waqqad will be discharging the authority of the prime minister. Related sources will closely cooperate with him.

Hekmatyar Faction Denies Transfer

BK1212063493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0630 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Islamabad Dec 12 (AFP)—Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin faction denied here Sunday a Radio Kabul report that Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar had stepped down.

"The report of Radio Kabul is completely wrong. It's just a propaganda against Hekmatyar", said Mangal Hussein, special representative of Hekmatyar in Islamabad.

Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad Saturday, said that Golboddin Hekmatyar, who heads the Hezb had turned the office over to his second-in-command, Qazi Amin Waqaad, in charge of telecommunications in the Afghan government.

Radio Kabul is controlled by the faction led by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, who opposes Hekmatyar.

Mangal Hussein said Waqaad had been appointed first acting deputy prime minister in the absence of the deputy prime minister Qutubuddin Hilal, who is visiting Pakistan.

Hekmatyar has offered his resignation several times in recent weeks, but only on the condition that Rabbani did the same.

Hekmatyar Plan for Rabbani Resignation Rejected

LD1112200193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Esteemed Ayatollah Mohseni rejected Hekmatyar's proposal on the resignation of the president. Regarding Hekmatyar's proposal for the president and the prime minister to resign, Mohseni—leader of Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] of Afghanistan—said in an interview with Voice of America last night that their resignation could not resolve any problem. This could possibly resolve the problem from the point of view of one side—within the framework of a party or in the framework of the thinking and feelings of a person—but it could not resolve the general problem in the society from a political and social point of view.

Esteemed Mohseni added: The basic problem is the fighting. Fighting must cease.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reporter adds that esteemed Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the National Islamic Front, said some time ago in an interview with the BBC that he also rejected Hekmatyar's proposal. He said: Hekmatyar can step down from his position, but the presidency's affairs have nothing to do with the prime minister.

One Killed, 8 Hurt by Mines in Pul-e Charki

LD1012213093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] As a result of a mine laid in the village of Pul-e Charkhi by men associated with Hekmatyar's party, a women was martyred and eight others were injured. BAKHTAR's military correspondent reports that the enemies of the people last night put down antipersonnel mines in alleys and walkways in order to kill and terrorize the people of the village. This morning when the people, unaware of the mines, left their houses in order to say prayers and to go to about their daily work and passed through the mined area a woman was martyred and eight of our oppressed and innocent compatriots were injured.

The injured were taken to the hospital by officials of Division 32 and received treatment. Mine-clearing work in the area continues with speed.

India

Officials Meet U.S. Senators, View Ammendment

Official Warns Against Repeal of Pressler

BK1112161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] India today cautioned the United States that repealing the Pressler Amendment will legitimize Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons program. New Delhi also expressed concern that this will result in the delivery of the state-of-the-art F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, providing it with a greater number of delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction.

Speaking at a lunch hosted in honor of the visiting U.S. senators, including Mr. Pressler, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, pointed out that Pakistan already acknowledges possessing weapons of mass destruction. He said the U.S. Administration move

will, therefore, destabilize the South Asian region. In such a scenario, India will need to reappraise its defense policies.

The minister objected to India being lectured on the human rights issue, especially in the light of a commitment to democratic norms. Mr. Khurshid said India is faced with a proxy war in Kashmir. He made it clear that motivated propaganda against India on human rights will be counterproductive. The U.S. senators—Mr. Pressler, Mr. Cochran, and Mr. Brown—are currently on a visit to several Asian countries. They will also hold talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the home minister, Mr. Chavan.

Rao Cautions Senators

BK1212034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The visiting U.S. senators called on the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi yesterday. The current status of the India-U.S. relations, trade and developments in South Asian region, including India's ties with China and Pakistan figured in the one-hour-long discussion. The senators are Mr. Larry Pressler, Mr. Thad Cochran, and Mr. Hank Brown. The prime minister told them about his meetings with the Pakistan leaders during the last two years and expressed India's concern over the problem of terrorism which is being supported from across the border. Mr. Narasimha Rao told them that the secretary-level talks between the two countries will resume in a bid to resolve all bilateral issues including Kashmir. The U.S. moves to repeal the Pressler Amendment is understood to have figured in the discussions. Senator Pressler informed the prime minister that it may take a few months before the decision is taken by the U.S. Senate on the proposed legislation. New Delhi is of the view that the repeal of the Pressler Amendment will have the effect of legitimizing the clandestine nuclear weapons program of Pakistan.

Amending U.S. Foreign Assistance Act Opposed

BK1312110993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Commentary by K. Subramaniam]

[Text] The statement of the U.S. under secretary of state, Lynne Davis, on the proposed rewriting of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 has attracted considerable attention in India. The under secretary has sought to clarify that the proposed revision does not in any way dilute the nonproliferation standard hitherto applied to countries which were to receive U.S. assistance. It only introduces new wordings to make the act no longer country-specific, and vests the power of giving a waiver to the President. In other words, the primary thrust of the act is to shift the power of withholding assistance to a country possessing a nuclear weapon or nuclear explosive from the U.S. Congress to the U.S. President, exercising his discretion. Since 1994 precedes the year of Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] conference, it is unlikely the president will exercise any such discretion in 1994. The risk of the U.S. President exercising such discretion will begin only after the NPT extension conference is concluded. Therefore, the fears in India and optimistic expectations in Pakistan that the legislation, if approved, will result in sophisticated U.S. weapons flowing into Pakistan are unfounded for at least the next few months.

The U.S. Congress zealously guards its powers and, therefore, should not take for granted the U.S. Administration will be able to get its new legislation through the Congress easily. [sentence as heard] Administration officials themselves have been keen to demonstrate that these are draft proposals. In the U.S. Congress there are strong reservations about the way in which the U.S. Administration allowed the nonproliferation objective superseded by Afghan policy in the eighties. Already some senators who have been in the forefront of the nonproliferation crusade, like John Glenn and Larry Pressler, have given notice of their intention to fight the proposed revision.

Lynne Davis has characterized the proposed policy being constituent of the U.S. long-term goal for South Asia, and that neither India nor Pakistan would feel that nuclear weapons were appropriate way to defend their security. India at no time had taken the position that nuclear weapons was the appropriate way to defend the security of the nation. India is the only country in the world which did not follow up its nuclear test with building a nuclear arsenal. India has consistently moved resolutions in the United Nations calling on the international community to give up the first use of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, it is the United States and the nuclear weapon powers who have been maintaining that they still retain nuclear weapons as defense of last resort even in the post-Cold War world when they no longer face any nuclear adversary. The Pakistan doctrine appears to have been derived from the NATO strategy, which used to maintain that the doctrine of first use of nuclear weapons was justified because they faced an adversary with a larger conventional force.

The nuclear issue in this part of the world is not a single India-Pakistan one. India has a longer border with China than with Pakistan. In the report to the U.S. Congress on the progress toward regional nonproliferation in South Asia, the U.S. Administration stated that while India's weapons of mass destruction and missile program initially were driven by security concerns about China, Pakistan's weapons of mass destruction-related programs now add to these concerns. The report further added despite (?the fact) China acceding to the NPT, concerns remain about whether China has terminated its links to Pakistan's nuclear program and its missile export policies.

It may be recalled that after this report was issued, the U.S. invoked sanctions for the second time against both China and Pakistan on the ground of missile transactions between the two countries.

Given these circumstances, there is adequate justification for the U.S. Congress to be wary of the real intentions of the U.S. Administration. It does not seem to be a well thought out measure.

Russia Alters Sale Contract of Cryogenic Engine

BK1312080493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Russia has changed its contract for the sale of cryogenic rocket engines to India to bring it in line with international rules. The INTERFAX news agency quotes the head of the Glavkosmos space agency, Mr. Aleksandr Dunayev, as saying that the altered contract will allow Russia to supply two cryogenic rocket engines to India. However, Mr. Dunayev declined to specify the exact changes made in the contract. Mr. Dunayev who signed the deal with India on behalf of the then Soviet Union said that the contract had to be changed to comply with the U.S.-Russian memorandum of understanding on rocket technology exports signed in September.

Situation, Fighting in Kashmir Updated

12 'Militants' Killed

BK1212155293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 12 militants were killed in different incidents today. Of these, six were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Keshwan area of Kishtwar in Jammu during a search operation. The operation was continuing till last reports came in. Some arms and ammunition have also been recovered. Six other militants were killed in the Kashmir valley.

Various Clashes Noted

BK1212141893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 40 people, including 10 Indian soldiers have been killed in clashes between mojahedin and Indian troops in various parts of the valley. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] severe clashes were held in Anantnag. Curfew has been clamped on the city and authorities sent more troops and fire brigades to the area. Another report said mojahedin mounted a rocket attack at Badamibagh cantonment in Srinagar which caused a big fire. A number of Indian troops were killed in a clash with mojahedin in Birwah in Badgam area. Eight mojahedin were also martyred in the clash. Occupation troops set ablaze eight houses in the area. In Srinagar, five civilians were killed in indiscriminate firing by Indian troops. Sixteen youths were killed by Indian troops in the border areas of Kupwara.

Ammunition Seized

BK1012160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] In Kashmir valley, security forces have seized 20,000 rounds of AK ammunition from hideouts in the Tandal and Uri sectors, near the line of actual control. An official release said the presence of such a huge of quantity of ammunition near the border could be possible only with the connivance and support of the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] and forces manning the border on the Pakistan side.

Iran

'Arafat-Rabin Meeting Called 'Desperate Attempt'

NC1312083093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] A second Cairo meeting between the PLO chairman and the Zionist entity's prime minister shows that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is stumbling and encountering major problems and difficulties. Their meetings so far have focused on finding a suitable way to implement this agreement.

According to an earlier agreement, Israel was due to withdraw its forces from the areas of limited self-administration tomorrow, 13 December. However, all indications rule this out because Israel's equivocations show that it is not at all serious about this withdrawal.

Ever since the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed, world opinion has become more and more convinced that Israel does not only disregard UN resolutions, it also disregards the ones it has signed itself. The meetings held during the last three months in Cairo and Taba by the Palestinian-Israeli committees, which were formed after the Gaza-Jericho agreement, have faced serious difficulties and obstacles as a result of this Zionist attitude. The major difficulties and differences separating the two sides revolve around three issues, the first being a disagreement about the size of the Jericho area. The Palestinians believe that Israel wants to limit the self-administered area there to one-tenth of the actual size of the Jericho area, which is 340 sq km. The second issue is connected with the scope of Israeli security measures in the self-administered areas, particularly those linked to settlements and the supervision of connecting roads and border areas. Israel insists on imposing tight control over these matters.

The third obstacle pertains to the future of thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails and ways to set them free. The head of the Palestinian delegation has stated that Israel is trying to use those prisoners as hostages. Several political observers believe that Israel has resorted to a policy of prolonging the negotiations and exploiting the time factor for its own interest.

It is clear that Rabin's government, which is facing pressures from extremist Zionist trends inside the so-called Israel, is using a diplomacy of equivocation and procrastination to achieve two objectives. It has stepped up its suppression and assassination of the sons and prominent figures of the Palestinian nation. It has even extended this suppression to include members of the pro-'Arafat Fatah movement. This policy takes the edge off the Zionist extremists' opposition and, at the same time, undermines the Palestinian position in Israeli eyes.

Despite these events and aims and the ugly escalating Zionist suppression over the past few weeks, the heroic Palestinian people's intifadah continues to blaze and grow stronger everywhere in occupied Palestine.

'Arafat's meeting with Rabin in Cairo today can be viewed as a desperate attempt to eliminate the obstacles and difficulties barring the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. It was Israel itself that intentionally placed these obstacles in the negotiations' path to demonstrate to the whole world that it lacks commitment to any principle or agreement, even those it has signed itself.

Christopher Tour of Middle East Viewed

NC1112192893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary State Warren Christopher, on the last leg of his tour of the Middle East and North Africa, arrived in Rabat from Tunis. After arriving in Rabat, he met with Moroccan King Hassan II. In addition to discussing relations between the two countries within the framework of the Middle East peace process, this visit will focus on Arab-Israeli differences. It has been described as an extremely important visit. The United States and the Zionist entity made great efforts on all levels after the Gaza-Jericho agreement was reached between Israel and the PLO. Among these efforts were Rabin's visit to Rabat the day after the agreement was signed and his meeting with the Moroccan king, as well as the Israeli tourism minister's visit to Tunis.

Political analysts believe that relations between the United States and Morocco might prevent the emergence of extremist stands in some Arab countries. During his visit to the Middle East and his meetings with the Syrian and Zionist officials, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher sought to revive the Middle East peace talks and eliminate the obstacles facing the Syrian-Zionist talks. In this regard, the report about the meeting between the Syrian and U.S. presidents scheduled for January in Geneva was released. In addition, it was hinted that there was some optimism about restarting the Middle East peace talks between Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel. It seems that the U.S. secretary of state succeeded in bringing the viewpoints of the two closer to resume the peace talks.

The peace talks experienced a state of confusion after the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed, because Syrian officials, due to the Zionist entity's nonadherence to the general principles of the peace negotiations, accused the Zionist officials of not being serious about these talks. For this reason, they decided not to participate in the talks. It seems that the U.S. secretary of state's meeting with Syrian officials has decreased Damascus' opposition to some degree. But political analysts, in view of the critical situation in the occupied territories and the problems that cropped up before the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, believe that this agreement will follow a long and dangerous course before it can be implemented. This issue could force the Middle East peace process to face many obstacles.

First Vice President Leads Delegation to Syria

NC1312075893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] First Vice President Habibi left for Syria this morning as the head of a political-economic delegation. Before leaving Tehran, Habibi told correspondents that the objective of this visit is to participate in the two countries' joint commission. This commission, which meets once in Iran and once in Syria each year, discusses regional and international political-economic issues of interest to both countries. The foreign minister, the minister of industries, and several other officials are accompanying the first vice president on this four-day visit.

Pakistan's Bhutto Ends Visit; Accords Signed

Paper Interviews Bhutto

NC0712162693 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7 (AFP)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said coordination with Iran could help to end conflicts in Afghanistan and Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union.

She was open to "all proposals on joint mediation with Iran" on Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, Bhutto told the TEHRAN TIMES Newspaper in an interview to be published on Wednesday [8 December], the day she starts a visit to Iran.

The Pakistani leader also welcomed Iranian cooperation in ending violence in Indian-administered Kashmir.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan and India are to meet in Islamabad in early 1994 to discuss Kashmir, Bhutto noted in the interview with the English-language newspaper.

Her visit to Iran was aimed at "strengthening and developing" Pakistan's relations with the Islamic republic. Islamabad is interested in launching joint industrial, trade and other economic projects, she said.

Bhutto already visited Tehran in May 1990 during a first term as prime minister, and she returned to power in the October elections. She will travel on to Turkey after Iran.

Trade Memorandum Signed

BK1012145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The minister for foreign affairs, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective government.

PTV Representative Abdul Khalid Sarghana reports from Tehran that the memorandum envisages timely and effective implementation of all the decisions which may give impetus to the economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries under the aegis of Pak-Iran Joint Ministerial Commission which will now meet on biannual basis instead of annually. The two countries also agreed to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in various economic sectors besides expanding volume of trade between the two countries. The memorandum also identified a number of economic and industrial sectors where the two countries would share their experiences.

Before her departure to Ankara, the prime minister read a press statement at the Tehran Airport. The Iranian president was also present on the occasion. In her statement, the prime minister said the leaders of the two countries exchanged views on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations. They also discussed recent developments which concern the security and well being of the region. They felt that recent developments have reinforced the importance of regional cooperation and agreed to intensify their efforts in this regard. They expressed satisfaction that the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] cooperation was acquiring momentum and called for implementation of the Quetta Plan of Action and the long term perspective agreed at Istanbul. On Kashmir, the two leaders exchanged views and considered that it was a cause for acute tension in the region. They called for an end to the repression of the Kashmiri people, respect for their human rights, realization of their wishes, and a settlement of the Kashmir dispute according to relevant UN resolution. They welcomed the resumption of talks between Pakistan and India and expressed the hope that the negotiations would lead to meaningful progress in resolving the Kashmir dispute. The prime minister of Pakistan welcomed President Rafsanjani's initiative to use his good offices to settle the Kashmir dispute. While reviewing bilateral relations, the two leaders reiterated their resolve to open a new chapter in bilateral economic cooperation. They identified a number of areas where cooperation would be immediately beneficial and others where gains would accrue over a longer period. The two leaders agreed to explore possibilities of enhancing cooperation in the defense field and agreed to hold further talks and exchange delegations in the near future. The prime minister of Pakistan extended an invitation to president 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Pakistan next year. The invitation was accepted.

A warm send-off was given to the Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, when she left Tehran earlier today at the end of a three-day official visit to Iran. At the Mehrabad International Airport, the prime minister and members were seen off by the Iranian president, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akhar Velyati, besides other ministers. Also present at the airport to see off the prime minister were senior officials of the Iranian Government, diplomats based in Tehran, and officials of the Pakistan embassy in Tehran. A contingent of the Iranian armed froces presented a guard of honor to the prime minister.

Joint Communique Released

LD1012153593 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Pakistani Prime Minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto wounding her three-day visit to Tehran Friday [10 December] morning, said Iran and Pakistan enjoyed full indentical views on world issues.

Talking to reporters at Mehrabad Airport before her departure for Turkey on the next leg of tour, Bhutto said that she discussed regional topics especially the Afghan issue with the Iranian president.

She believed that Islam was a dynamic religion which would help the Islamic societies to prepare against the problems, and remarked that the hegemonist world had created fear in people all over the world towards any changes.

Underlining the need for Islamic solidarity, the premier noted that she had invited President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for a visit to Pakistan which would take place next year.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who saw off Mrs. Bhutto, said that Tehran and Islamabad share close views on world issues, and added that important decisions such as Iran's building of an oil refinary in Pakistan and the laying of gas pipeline to that country to transport Iranian natural gas had been made at their talks.

He said the Iran-Pakistan joint economic commission was to follow up the decisions reached, and that ministers of the two countries would hold meetings to take advantage of the friendly atmosphere to further promote cooperation.

At the conclusion of the Pakistani delegation's visit here, Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Pakistani counterpart, Assef Ahmad Ali, signed a letter of understanding on expansion of mutual ties.

Meanwhile in a joint communique which was released simultaneously in Tehran and Islamabad today, both

sides voiced readiness to expand cultural ties and start up Persian and Urdu language courses at Pakistani and Iranian higher educational institutes respectively.

They regarded the the present world and regional stauts as a threat to regional peace and stability and agreed to increase cooperation withing the framework of the 10-nation economic cooperation organization (ECO).

Both countries expressed concern over the fratricide and political conditions in Afghanistan with whom Iran and Pakistan share borders. They called on Afghan leaders to join international efforts to reconstruct the country and facilitate the return home of Afghan refugees living in Iran and Pakistan.

The two sides considered the Kashmir issue as a serious element of tension in the region, and welcoming India-Pakistan negotiations, urged the paeceful settlement of the problem within the framework of the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The statement underlined the peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East issue, liberation of Palestine and establishment of an independant government there.

It also expressed concern over situation on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border and asked the Tajik warring groups to amicably settle their disputes and facilitate the return of refugees to their country.

Iran and Pakistan also called for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azeri soil, and asked international bodies to render assistance to accomodate Azeri refugees in Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic.

On Bosnian-Herzegovina, Tehran and Islamabad welcomed the formation of the war crimes tribunal and asked the U.N. Security Council to lift the sanctions on that country.

They also stressed the need for joint narcotics campaign and agreed that the interior ministers of the two countries meet in Islamabad to expand coordination in the field.

The Pakistani ministers of foreign affairs, defence, head of the Ministry of Economy and the special advisor for economic affairs were accompanying Bhutto on her three-day visit to Iran.

The Pakistani premier also visited the holy city of Mashhad last night for pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam 'Ali Ibn-Musa al-Redha the 8th imam of the prophet's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] infallible household.

Minister Denies Military Cooperation With DPRK

LD1112142193 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—Iran and North Korea would cooperate in the areas of communication industry, housing and urban development, and trade, Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Mohammad Foruzandeh announced here today.

Back from Pyongyang, where he had attended the fifth Tehran-Pyongyang joint economic commission, Foruzandeh said the two countries had inked a protocol on trade and service exchanges.

He once again rejected the claims by the Western media on the expansion of military cooperation between Iran and North Korea including an alleged contract for testing the North Korean-built missiles in Iran.

"No such program has ever existed between the two countries," he stressed.

Paper Urges Resumption of Ties With South Africa

LD1312115593 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—The morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Monday [13 December] commented over relations between Iran and South Africa and called on the Foreign Ministry to consider resumption of ties with that country since the "reason for its sanctioning seems to be disappearing." Referring to the present changes in South Africa, under the government of President Frederik W. de Klerk, the article said: "The world is wintnessing definite signs of improvement in South Africa, which will transform the nature of the government there."

After the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, the country stopped its relations with the South African Government on the basis of its foreign policy which banned having relations with governments that were "intrinsically oppressive", including the usurper Zionist regime. "In view of the present changes, the Foreign Ministry ought to be considering the resumption of relations with South Africa."

Pointing to Iran's close relatinship with the leader of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, the paper noted, "if, at this crucial stage, he asks for further support we need to follow suit and extend our hands forward." There seems to be no more reason for sanctioning South Africa, "in addition, we need to establish talks in order to influence and ensure the rights of the Muslims there, added the article. "Moreover, South Africa is the most highly industrialized economy in Africa, renewed economic ties could further both countries' progress," concluded the paper.

Larijani Interviewed on Media, Cultural Issues

NC1012190793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 11

[Interview with Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister 'Ali Larijani by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-SAFIR] There have been a number of observations regarding Iranian information. It is, according to some people, too rhetorical and political and pays no attention to social issues. In light of the multiplicity of voices, it presents the wrong image of Iran. Occasionally, it appears as if there are sharp contradictions among the political leaders. For example, Velayati met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa some time ago. The report was officially denied, and then it was confirmed by Velayati. Such confusion gives a bad image that is not in the interest of Iran. It is difficult to accept that the street or emotions control state policy.

[Larijani] You have raised different issues. For example, with regard to the press and the rhetoric in Iranian media, I reply—for clarification and not for persuasion—that there are 600 newspapers published in Iran. This is double the number of papers that were published before the revolution. Many of them are specialized, and some are general. Some of them specialize in publishing the opinions of thinkers. We have also papers published in foreign languages, such as English, French, German, Arabic, and so forth.

[AL-SAFIR] The press in Iran treats Egypt harshly. Irrespective of your disagreement with the Egyptian regime, what is the reason for this harsh attitude toward Egypt in your press?

[Larijani] Our cultural relations with Egypt must be stronger than our relations with other countries. We must consider the issue in depth. Maybe there are deep political differences between us that cannot be easily resolved, but we must review the positions adopted by our press. We are sorry for that. We do not want the differences to affect cultural relations, which must not be suspended. Political differences may exist between us and the United States, but we must not break the cultural relations with it. We get literature via Lebanon, because Egypt thinks that its writers must not have links with us. If there is no problem, then Egypt must not prevent cultural ties.

[AL-SAFIR] What I meant is the image that Iran projects to the world. Many reasons are being used to defame Iran, such as the Salman Rushdie issue. Iran was widely defamed because of this issue. There are many issues that the West can use to distort the image of Iran and Islam. I assume that your ministry has a basic role in this field.

[Larijani] That is correct. We must not give weapons to the enemy. But Salman Rushdie's issue is different, and we had to have a position.

[AL-SAFIR] Anyone who follows your media assumes that life has no joy and happiness, only wailing and weeping. I have heard a great deal of criticism about Iranian television. Instigation enters Iran by illegal means. Why don't you make your television more attractive than Western television instead of banning it?

[Larijani] I acknowledge the problem you have raised. Iranian television has some shortcomings. I acknowledge that the world is a world of information. There are good programs on television. The people of Central Asia like musical programs, for example. But the technological issue requires the Muslims' support.

[AL-SAFIR] What about the cultural accomplishments after the revolution?

[Larijani] This is a long discussion, but we can evaluate the cultural achievements before and after the revolution. Before the revolution, we printed 2,000 to 3,000 book titles every year. Now we print 8,000 to 10,000 titles and 60 million copies every year. The number of libraries increased sixfold. The number of universities increased from 15 to 100. This is in addition to the Open Islamic University. The number of university students has increased many times over. We now produce 55 to 65 quality films each year.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you think that Islamic culture is applicable to everyday life?

[Larijani] Islamic culture does not contradict cinema and art. We have no problems with art. There are various schools of art, cinema, and so forth. We have not banned any of them. There are many religious rulings, but there is only one religious scholar we follow. He is the leader of the revolution. There are different tastes in art and music.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the problem with women and singing?

[Larijani] These are jurisprudence issues that we leave to the experts.

[AL-SAFIR] We have heard a tape of a woman singer.

[Larijani] There are many considerations in this field.

[AL-SAFIR] The many prohibitions in Saudi Arabia have produced many deviations. The same could happen here.

[Larijani] The points you have raised are based on some principles. I will give you two examples: The basis of Western philosophy and our philosophy is the happiness of the individual. Popular and rock music is played in the West, but we regard it as harmful to our society. We regard the veil as a duty, but the West thinks otherwise.

Therefore, there are two cultures. To "enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil" [Koranic verse] would be considered an insult on the Champs-Elysees. There, it is possible to curse everyone, from Adam to the end of creation. Here things are different. You can see a reflection of these two cultures in music and the arts.

[AL-SAFIR] But in Egypt, the society is Muslim and the majority are religious and believers, yet there is freedom for the others.

[Larijani] Islam's speciality lies in the role of the government. In your family, you want to provide a happy life for your children. You do not dig a well that your children can fall into.

The women here work as musicians and artists. You cannot compare us with Saudi Arabia. That would be incorrect. What you see here, you do not see there. Here you see here the books of Marx, Ibn-Taymiyah, and others. Here we have mosques and churches.

[AL-SAFIR] The atheist and ideological system has negative and positive characteristics. It could, through culture, become a tool of repression, and with it, dialogue could become impossible.

[Larijani] Our problem with you is that you think all ideologies are the same. You equate us with the Marxist system. The thinkers in the Soviet Union had no relations with the world. We have open relations. We have books about all the thinkers. If we have a dogmatic government, it is not purely dogmatic. To us, Islam is a way of life. The state is not an iron curtain, because this would harm society.

Liberalism is also an ideology. Many states have established themselves on an ideological basis. The West is ideological, like the Soviet Union was. But the question is: Which ideology contributes to the happiness of the people? Some ideologies, like Marxism and liberalism, are harmful, and some others, like Islam, are useful. Every government has its own ideology.

Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani Buried, Honored

Crowd Gathers for Burial

LD1112141193 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Qom, Dec. 11, IRNA—The body of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegani was laid to rest in the holy shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumeh daughter of the 7th imam of the prophet's household (pbuh) [peace be upon her], here this afternoon.

A huge crowd gathered at the holy shrine made it difficult for the burial to take place, causing a six-hour delay in the pre-scheduled burial.

The body was laid to rest in a tomb beside the tomb of the late Grand Ayatollah Shaykh Abd-al-Karim Ha'eri, founder of Qom seminary.

The funeral procession was held while mutitudes of mourners beat their chests to express their grief over Ayatollah Golpayegani's sad departure.

A mourning ceremony organized by the office of the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, will be held at A'zam mosque here Sunday [12 December] in memory of the late ayatollah.

A similar ceremony is also to be held this afternoon by Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki at the same mosque.

Ceremony Honors Late Ayatollah

LD1212125993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpts] A ceremony honoring the distinguished personality of the world of Shiite Islam, His Excellency Grand Ayatollah Mr. Haj Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, may his soul be sanctified, was held this morning by the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution. Mourners of various strata at the senior theological school of Shahid Motahari participated.

According to reports, the ceremony was held in the presence of the esteemed leader of Islamic Revolution. A large number of people and government officials participated in order to honor the distinguished personality of religious sciences and spirituality. [passage omitted] The main hall and the courtyard as well as the surrounding streets for some distance were filled with mourners. [passage omitted]

In addition to the extensive presence of people of various strata, also present were the president; the Majles speaker; Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, head of the judiciary; members of the Guardian Council; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Javad Golpayegani; members of the household of the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, may God's blessings be upon him; members of the household of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise; a representative from Grand Ayatollah Araki; distinguished scholars; representatives of the supreme jurisconsult in the various provinces-foundations-armed forces; the first vice president; other deputies and advisers to the president; cabinet members; judiciary officials; Majlis members; senior military commanders; officials of revolutionary organizations; members of the Militant Clergy Association; members of Tehran's Militant Clerics Society; some representatives of Islamic countries to Tehran; the Association of Preachers; the Association of Eulogists; members of the guilds and the Bazaar; and many representatives of the religious minorities.

Addressing the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Falsafi praised the distinguished position of religious sciences, theology, and leadership and then spoke on the need to establish government and the various types of government. He said the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran was the government of God over people.

Comparing the government of people over people with the government of God over people, he said: The great leader of the revolution, His Excellency Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, stood up with great power and greatness and destroyed the bridge that existed between Iran and the American White

House and established a system based on the principles of the government of God over people.

Emphasizing the point that the Islamic Government of Iran was one of the highest and most sacred governments in the world, he added: The people of Iran adore divine laws and wish for the full implementation of divine laws and orders. [passage omitted]

Commentary Lauds Golpayegani

LD1012221593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Grand Ayatollah Haj Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, one of the great religious authorities of the Shi'i Muslims passed away at the age of 96 on Thursday evening [9 December].

The Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, who had been hospitalized as of last Tuesday as a result of pulmonary disease, passed away due to a heart attack.

Following this tragedy the Muslim people of Iran and some other Islamic countries started mourning. A week of mourning has been declared in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this connection numerous messages of condolence have been sent to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, by various personalities and organizations. In this relation we can refer to messages sent by the head of executive, legislative, and judiciary powers.

The Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani was considered as one of the outstanding scientific personalities of the world of Islam who worked hard for the spread of this religion. The Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, who was a religious authority for 32 years and taught at Qom theological school for 70 years, educated many scholars during his fruitful life. In this connection he established about 303 theological schools, libraries, mosques, religious centers, and charity institutions both inside and outside the Islamic Republic of Iran and helped scientific schools to improve. The Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani also authored many books for the spread of the Islamic teachings.

In the meantime the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, the late religious authority of the Shi'i Muslims, played a significant role in the struggles that led to the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran and always supported the Iranian Muslim nation's struggle led by the late Imam Khomeyni.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the Grand Ayatollah continued to support the Islamic revolution and invited the people to steadfastness. In this relation the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, following the passing away of Imam Khomeyni, by supporting the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i proved that he attached great importance to the continuing of the Islamic revolution aimed to spread Islam. Actually, his role in the Islamic revolution was such that the leader of the Islamic revolution in his message of condolence described the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani as one of the pillars of the Islamic revolution and the Government of the Islamic Republic in Iran.

The Iranian people and Muslims in other countries are mourning the loss of an outstanding scholar of Islam. In the meantime, messages of condolence have been sent to Ayatollah Khamene'i by the government and religious personalities, including Pakistan's prime minister, Mrs. Bhutto, who was visiting Iran when the Grand Ayatollah passed away. In her message of condolence Mrs. Bhutto expressed her deep sorrow for this tragedy.

It is well to mention that the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani had many followers among the Shi'i Muslims in the [Indian] subcontinent and had rendered many services to the theological schools and Muslim people in that region and had contributed to the spread of Islam as well.

The spiritual and sublime qualities of the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani were such that they had made him a model for other Muslims. His adherence to the Koranic teachings and ties with the imams had motivated Muslims to rate him among the pious and the believing servants of God in a way that in his message Ayatollah Khamene'i praised him with lofty words.

The Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani is considered as one of the most successful religious authorities.

Condolence Messages Sent on Ayatollah's Death

Khamene'i Sends Message to Araki

LD1012210993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the demise of His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, the eminent leader [Ayatollah Khamene'i] sent a condolence message to Grand Ayatollah Araki.

The message reads as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

From God do we come and to Him do we return. [sentence in Arabic] Your Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Mr. Haj Shaykh Mohammad 'Ali Araki, may your blessings continue.

I express my condolences to you on the occasion of the regrettable passing away of the Grand Ayatollah Mr. Haj Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani. [passage omitted] I ask God Almighty for a healthy and long life for you.

[signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[dated] 10 December 1993

Araki Sends Message to Khamene'i

LD1212094193 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Qom, Dec. 12, IRNA—The Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki Saturday sent a message of condolence to the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, expressing deep sorrow over the departure of the Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegani.

Ayatollah Araki's cable was in response to an earlier message of condolence by the leader.

Ayatollah Golpayegani, 96, passed away Thursday [9 December] night due to respiratory deficiency and lung problems and was laid to rest in Qom, in the holy shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumeh, daughter of the 7th imam of the prophet's household, Saturday.

In his message Ayatollah Araki condoled the leader and expressed grief over the decease of the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani and wished the leader success in safeguarding the revolution and Islamic values.

Cabinet, Others Offer Condolences

NC1212083193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Majles, the Islamic Propagation Coordination Council, and the Tehran Militant Clergy Association have issued separate statements reiterating their condolences over the demise of the spiritual scholar and the jurisprudent of the holy and chaste household, his eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, and have invited the people to attend today's memorial services at the Martyr Motahheri Higher Seminary.

The Association of Islamic Guilds and the Bazaar Association have also announced that, in order to facilitate the participation of the bazaaris in the services at the Martyr Motahheri Higher Seminary, the Tehran bazaar will remain closed until noon today.

Majles Speaker Offers Condolences

LD1212114293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] In an open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly today, the Majles speaker and deputies, expressing their regret over the death of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, the exalted source of emulation of the world of Shiites, honored the lofty status and worthy personality of that theological scholar.

Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, who chaired the session, offered his condolences on the death of the exalted source of emulation of the world of Shiites, His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani. Praising the wholesale participation of the people in the funeral commemoration ceremonies for that theological scholar, he said: Their sorrowful and moving participation shows the depth of faith of our people and their religious belief in the source of emulation and the clergy [marja'iyyat va ruhaniyyat].

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said that the ineffectiveness and neutralization of the adverse atmosphere created by the enemies of Islam and the Islamic Revolution and their adverse propaganda results from the widespread participation of the people in the arena and added: When it comes to religion, the Islamic system, and the values of the revolution, our people disregard all shortcomings and actively step into the the arena. The head of the legislative power said: By their widespread presence, the people have again renewed their pledge with the leadership and the source of emulation.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri pointed to the need for further appreciation of the people by the officials and expressed the hope that officials make further efforts to serve them.

Pakistani Muslims Express Sorrow

LD1112101393 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—Leader of Pakistan's Shi'a Muslims Seyyed Sajid 'Ali Naqvi in a message to the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, expressed deep sorrow over the sad departure of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza-Golpaygani.

Ayatollah Golpaygani, 96, passed away Thursday [9 December] after a heart attack at Martyr Raja'i Hospital here where he was admitted Monday last due to respiratory and lung problems.

Similar messages were sent to the leader by various Islamic movements of Pakistan in which deep condolence expressed over the ayatollah's decease.

To mark the occasion, Muslims in Spain and Chile held mourning ceremonies and sent condolence messages to the Iranian embassies in Madrid and Santiago.

Armenian Archbishop Messages Leaders

LD1112103693 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—A delegation of Armenian clergymen representing the leader of Tehran's Armenians, His Holiness Archbishop Ardak Manukian, left here for the holy city of Qom this morninng to take part in funeral procession of the Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani.

Archbishop Manukian, in separate messages, also condoled the leader of the revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Muslims all over the world.

In his messages, the archbishop expressed deep sorrow over the sad departure of the grand ayatollah, the marja'-e taqlid (a jurist whose rulings people follow in all matters religious) for millions of Shi'a Muslims around the world.

The body of the grand ayatollah will be laid to rest in the holy shrine of Hazrat Masouma, daughter of the 7th imam of the prophet's household, in Qom, 135 km south of Tehran.

Grand Ayatollah Araki Termed 'Source of Emulation'

Jannati: Followers May 'Emulate' Araki

LD1012183793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 10 Dec 93

[First Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati at Tehran University on 10 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] I offer condolences to the Lord of the Age [12th Shiite Imam Mahdi], the honorable leader [Khamene'i], may his shadow extend, the holy seminaries, the world of Islam, and particularly the world of the Shiites and the esteemed family [of late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegani], and you the Friday prayer worshippers, on the occasion of the passing away of the great source of emulation [marja'-e taqlid] of the Shiites, the great pillar of the seminary and the seminary scholar, His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani [participants chant salavat, praise and greeting to God, Muhammad and his scion]. I devote my first sermon to that subject. [passage omitted]

The loss of such great men is tragic for us particularly since we are short of such scholars. Around 20 years ago we had many such men and today, unfortunately, we have very few, and we are concerned about the future and we hope that God Almighty compensates us for such losses.

As time is short and sermons began late, I would not like to take up a lot of your time so that you will be able to attend the funeral procession, but there are a few points I deem necessary to mention.

One point is that his [Golpayegani's] followers should definitely think about who they are going to emulate [now that he is dead] and choose a [new] source of emulation. I tell them that the current sources of emulation, that is those who can issue fatwas and have the resalah [theses, book giving instructions on religious practices], do usually allow the emulation of a deceased source. Therefore his followers can continue emulating him. Therefore they have no problem, and to choose another particular source of emulation in such a case when they all have similar authority is not necessary.

Of course if they want to refer to a particular source of emulation, then His Eminence Grand Ayatollah [Mohammad 'Ali] Araki has already been announced as the person highly capable of being a source of emulation and issuing fatwas. Following the demise of His Eminence the Imam [Khomeyni], may he admitted to God's paradise, we announced that people can refer to one of the two honorable personalities, His Eminence Ayatollah Araki or His Eminence Golpayegani. So the issue of the source of emulation is not such a problem. [passage omitted]

Amini Views Araki as 'Source of Emulation'

LD1012180193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1537 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini, secretary of the Assembly of Experts, in Qom on 10 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] God knows, we who are aware of the existing situation, are truly saddened by the demise [of Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani]. The present climate is such that his presence was extremely valuable. The loss of such a personality is truly irreparable. We are now responsible to pray for the long life of his eminence, Grand Ayatollah Araki. He has been, since the time of the late Sheykh 'Abdolkarim Ha'eri, one of the most brilliant personalities in the field of theology and religious sciences, and a friend among the ulema and lecturers in theology. May God guard his presence for the Shiites across the world. Following the demise of his eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, the presence of Araki is truly valuable. The presence of such a scholar who can be a source of emulation for many is valuable. It is a duty for us all to pray for the health and long life of this great scholar. [passage omitted]

Qom Professors Issue Communique

LD1012184793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The Association of Professors of Qom Seminary published the following communique on the issue of the source of emulation [marja'-e taqlid] after the demise of the late Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, may he be admitted to God's paradise:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: [passage omitted]. Taking into account that members and the office of the Association of Professors of Qom Seminary have been repeatedly questioned about the Shiites' source of emulation, it is hereby announced to Shiites in Iran and across the world, that following the previous communique of the association—published after the demise of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah

Kho'i, may his soul be sanctified, which stated that the source of emulation is not outside the domain of the esteemed ayatollahs, their Eminences Golpayegani and Araki—now with the absence of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, the source of emulation is embodied in the person of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Araki, may his blessings continue. We pray for the success of his excellency in his services to the blessed system of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Says Khamene'i Has 'Marja" Status

LD1012173493 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Shiraz, Dec. 10, IRNA—Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the chief justice of the Islamic Republic, here today said that the leader of Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was one of the eminent jurists and that people could follow his decrees in all jurisprudential matters.

Responding to a query from the secretariat of prayer leaders of Fars Province, Ayatollah Yazdi said that it is an established fact that Ayatollah Khamene'i is a marja' (a jurist whose rulings people follow in all matters religious) and that it is incumbent (on Muslims) to follow him as the marja' and the leader of the Islamic world.

Ayatollah Yazdi is in Shiraz to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah 'Abdol-Hoseyn Dastgheyb. Ayatollah Dastgheyb was assassinated by a MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq] terrorist in 1982.

Pakistan

Bhutto Returns After Visit to Iran, Turkey

BK1312093393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad last night after a five-day official visit to Iran and Turkey. During her visit, the prime minister held in-depth discussions with the leaders of these countries on increasing cooperation in political, economic, and technical fields. She also exchanged views on regional and international matters. Iran and Turkey reaffirmed total support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

During the prime minister's visit to Iran, both countries signed a memorandum of understanding on increasing trade and economic cooperation. They also agreed to assess prospects of increasing cooperation in the field of defense. Both countries asked India to end its repression of the Kashmiri people, respect human rights, realize the aspirations of Kashmiris, and settle the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions.

During Benazir Bhutto's visit to Turkey, both countries decided to enhance cooperation in the political and economic fields. The Turkish leaders expressed in clear terms continued support for Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue and emphasized a solution of the issue in accordance with UN resolutions.

Media Comment on Bhutto's Trip to Iran, Turkey

Radio Sees Strong Ties

BK1312093193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[Text] The prime minister has concluded her official visits to Iran and Turkey and held in-depth talks with leaders of these countries. The bonds among the three nations are as strong as steel and light as air. For any new prime minister in Pakistan, Tehran and Ankara are just about the earliest ports of call, and so this has been with Premier Benazir Bhutto.

We live in a world which is changing more rapidly than ever. In the recent years, the changes that have come over this region have been qualitatively significant. These require constant watch and evaluation; also in some ways, readjustment in priorities and targets, although the ultimate objective remains unaltered. That objective is the strengthening and expansion of the essential brotherhood and commonality of interests of the people concerned. In recent years, the Afghan issue and the transcendental change in Russia and Central Asia have given birth to countless imponderables. These in turn pose challenges to Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey in more or less the same way.

The commonality of interests in a region convulsed with fundamental change renders it highly important that Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey engage in exchange of ideas as frequently as possible. These exercises at the highest level are the best guarantee that these three close associates move in step and harmony, reinforcing one another's well-thought-out positions on world issues. It is good to see that Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey have harmonious perceptions on most world issues. What is even more reassuring is that on issues which have an immediate and close bearing on all three—Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey—have a unity of purpose born out of a community of legitimate national interests.

It is this central unity of interests and inspiration and perception of inviolable principles which has enabled Pakistan to enlist such strong support for its stand on the burning Kashmir question. The highest in Iran and Turkey have given full endorsement to freedom struggle of the people of Kashmir. Both countries have expressed pain and sorrow over the manner in which occupation authorities have let loose a reign of terror in the occupied parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Although Iran and Turkey have always supported the cause of freedom of people everywhere, particularly in Kashmir, the endorsement reiterated this time is most unambiguous and categorical. Iran and Turkey have also expressed fullest support to the concept of close cooperation in the fields of trade and commerce,

sharing of technology in (?service) of economic development, as well as in the sphere of defense preparedness.

With Iran, cooperation in the field of energy is going to receive a major incentive after the recent round of talks between Premier Benazir Bhutto and the Iranian leaders. The plans have been there for quite some time, but for reasons still well known to be recounted, implementation remains a matter of time. [sentence as heard] The conflict in Afghanistan was among the major obstacles in realizing the hopes of economic cooperation with Iran on the scale envisaged in the shape of joint enterprises in oil and gas transmission from Iran to Pakistan.

This factor would also explain to some extent why the plans for closer interaction between Pakistan and Turkey has remained mostly on paper. After the latest personal contacts between Pakistan's prime minister and her counterparts in Iran and Turkey, the stage may start getting set for concrete actions on plans under the canopy of Economic Cooperation Organization. This organization, usually called the ECO, began as a three-member club. Now it has many more, several newly-emancipated Central Asian republics having enthusiastically joined it. The association of these new republics with the ECO is a natural act which gives the Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey comradeship a deeper dimension and enhances promise of vast variety in performance on a multidimensional scale among nations of Arabian Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, up to the Aral Sea and beyond.

Editorial Hails Relations With Iran

BK1212110793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 12 Dec 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Benazir's Iran Visit Opens a New Chapter"]

[Text] The just concluded Iran visit of Premier Benazir Bhutto has deepened Pak-Iran ties in the field of Economics, foreign policy and defence. Islamabad has always given a high-profile to Iranian factor in its foreign relations. Apart from geographical and cultural links the two countries' vital interests are inter-linked and in the post-Cold War world they are trying to redefine their role in the face of US-led diplomatic onslaught of the West.

It is pertinent to mention some of the less agreeable developments that have affected our relations with Tehran. Due to the obsession of our Foreign Office with Washington, it has not been able to give due attention to some areas vital to our national interests allowing India to make inroads into regional diplomacy at the cost of Pakistan. We are referring to New Delhi's initiatives in Central Asia and Tehran. If we want to retain a measure of influence and respect in many non-aligned states, we will have to distance ourselves from US policies towards Iran, Libya and Iraq.

Pakistan's defence co-operation with Iran has assumed special significance after the end of Gulf War; both countries are facing virtual embargo on the acquisition of sensitive technologies. The other factor in this field has been the immense strides which Iran has made in defence production during these years. It is capable of producing not only medium grade weapons, it has acquired enough technical know-how to manufacture sophisticated systems of defence. Pakistan, too, has a first rate pool of scientists and technical experts, but it lacks resources to make optimum utilisation of this pool. For that reason defence ties have figured very high on the agenda and it has been decided that the two sides would give further depth to their relations in this department.

Trade, investment and economic co-operation is an area which has not been fully explored for some inexplicable reasons, especially in the field of joint ventures the two parties have achieved very little. A Ministerial Commission has been set up and some of the projects which were shelved earlier on are now being revived especially those relating to textile production and oil refineries. Another neglected field is the development of communication links between the two states. More work needs to be done so that enhanced trade in private sector generates jobs and income on both sides of the border.

What must be especially gratifying to Pakistan is Iran's firm support for Pakistan's stand on Kashmir, contradicting earlier reports aired in India that Tehran's stand on Kashsmir is shifting. There is no doubt that Indian diplomats have been pressing Iran to revise its position on Kashmir in return for space and nuclear technology. These reports have proved false and malicious.

However we must warn the present government, which seems to be tilting too much towards US, to show greater independence and assertion in its relations with Washington. If we are perceived as US lackeys, our relation not only with Iran but other non-aligned countries will suffer a serious setback. It is no secret that Washington is nervous about close strategic cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and will use all levers to discourage the growth of ties between Tehran and Islamabad.

Stronger Economic Ties With Iran Urged

BK1212120693 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 Dec 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Pak-Iran Ties, Need for Pragmatism"]

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to cooperate in the field of defence. According to the joint communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's three-day visit to Tehran, the two countries will explore the possibilities of enhancing cooperation in the defence field and hold further talks and exchange delegations.

Throughout the history of Pakistan's foreign relations, cooperation in the field of defence was the singular most important criterion used by policy makers and the public alike to gauge the strength and reliability of Pakistan's ties with countries like China, Iran and even the US. It seems that we are using the same criterion to measure the worth of our relations with other states, though elsewhere in the world standards for making friends and judging friendships have changed much since.

The conventional foreign policy wisdom that there are no permanent friends, only permanent interests, has to be modified to capture the realities of world politics after the end of the Cold War. This will now read: there are no permanent friends, only permanent economic interests. Manifestations of this modified version are evident all across the world, from Africa to Latin America to Europe to South East Asia. Everywhere economic cooperation is the linchpin of relations among nations. Indeed, it will not be far wrong to say that it is the politics of economies more than of defence and geography that today dominates the discourse on international relations.

Hopefully, the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is aware of the futility of predicating Pakistan's ties with important regional actors like Iran on defence cooperation. It is encouraging to note in this regard that during the Prime Minister's visit, a number of areas were highlighted in the Memorandum of Understanding to increase economic cooperation. There was a proposal to build a gas pipeline from Karachi to Tehran which needs to be seriously pursued. This could be the bedrock for building stronger economic relations beneficial to both in the longer run.

In any case, to focus on the economic aspect of its relations with Iran seems a more level-headed choice for Pakistan as compared to expending energies in the implementation of airy fairy schemes of defence cooperation. It is common knowledge, which officialdom in Pakistan always fights shy of accepting, that Tehran's defence and foreign policy agenda is different from Islamabad's. Pakistan's defence and foreign policy concerns are mostly shaped by the power disequilibrum in south Asia and issues like Kashmir. Iran's external goals lie in the Gulf and the middle Eastern region and in its relations with the Western countries.

More importantly, notwithstanding Iran's firm support for our position on Kashmir, its ties with Delhi are growing, highlighted by Indian premier Narasimha Rao's September visit to Tehran. This underlines the finesse with which Tehran has pursued its friendship with Islamabad without upstaging its relations with Delhi. For all these reasons it would suit Pakistan's interests better to tap the economic potential of its traditonal friendship with Iran rather than to focus on areas like defence cooperation, where the prospects of progress are dim, to say the least.

Sources Report Indian Border Violations

BK1112090593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Indian troops have committed 184 confirmed border violations since January this year by opening fire on the civil population from across the Line of Control [LoC] in Kashmir, especially in Nikyal Sector, defence sources said here Friday [10 December].

They added that there have been 96 casualties, including 20 children, within this period. One UN observer was also injured.

It is highly deplorable, the sources said, that India on the one hand wanted to hold talks with Pakistan but on the other had started killing people through indiscriminate firing from across the LoC.

The Pakistani troops do retaliate sometimes, the sources said, but they directly hit Indian posts and not the population because the majority of people living across the LoC are Kashmiri Muslims.

During a recent visit to Nikyal area, Swedish Commander-In-Chief Lt Gen Akrey Sagren expressed serious concern over the ceasefire violations. He was also shocked by the incapacitation of a large number of refugees who have migrated from Occupied Kashmir due to Indian atrocities.

The sources said it was always because of India's negative attitude that talks on Kashmir, Siachen and all other outstanding issues were never successful.

The sources added that India was bleeding miserably at the glacier. Indian losses are 12 times higher than Pakistan's. India is spending 20 to 30 million rupees a day while Pakistan's expenditure remains in the hundreds of thousands.

In a recent report to the Indian government, the Indian Research and Analysis Wing, RAW, suggested, "it is a futile war at Siachen as they (Pakistanis) are better placed as compared to India due to their cohesive planning."

RAW also suggested that the government accept the proposal to demilitarise Siachen because Indian would then be able to deploy those troops at places of greater strategic importance, for instance in Kashmir.

The sources said it would be difficult for India to have an edge over Pakistan at Siachen because the Pakistan Army troops have achieved a great deal of expertise in mountain warfare and in psychological warfare, too.

A large number of Pakistani trops are infused with the spirit of martyrdom.

The Indian Army has 10 mountain divisions fully trained in mountain warfare. But lack of motivation among its troops and an expensive mode of transportation have prevented Indian from gaining the edge.

India still uses helicopters to transport necessary supplies while Pakistan has improved to a considerable extent the conditions of roads leading to the foot of the giant glacier.

According to an agreement reached between Pakistan and India in 1980, both sides were to re-deploy their troops to positions of June 1984 and to work towards a comprehensive solution. But, the sources regretted, India backed out of the agreement.